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OPENING OF THE VICTORIA EMBANKMENT BY THE PRINCE OF WALES AND PRINCESS LOUISA

THE WAR.

"A MAD world, my masters!" ay, and a wicked one too, or France and Germany would not now be at war. That sad fact is due to madness in some quarters, and to wickedness in others. How far madness and how far wickedness is responsible for the result, it is scarcely worth while to inquire; but this much is certain, that the insanity of the peoples is being worked upon by the guile of their rulers. "War is a game Kings would not play at, were subjects wise." But, then, subjects are not wise; and so Kings are enabled to play the game of war. The French people, if the demonstrations made in Paris for some days past may be regarded as genuine—and, on the whole, we think they may—are labouring under a violent access of unwisdom; they are suffering from Prussophobia; and the Emperor and his advisers, taking advantage of the hot fit, have hurried on the catastrophe. Perhaps, after a time, when the excitement has passed away, and a cold fit—induced, maybe, by reverses in the field—has succeeded, the people may repent; but repentance will then, as usual, come too late; the mischief will have been done. Some of our contemporaries are beginning to show a disposition—the outcome, we hope, of a generous sentiment—to make it appear that the Emperor Napoleon is not entirely to blame for the present condition of affairs. And, to a certain extent, they are right: the responsibility must be divided between him and his people. Their insane jealousy of their neighbours' influence, and no less insane passion for dictation, furnished the opportunity; and the Emperor has used it.

That is, we think, about the state of the case as regards immediate results. But then arises the important question, "Who instilled this jealousy into the minds of the French people? who fed their love of domination?" To which we answer, all French statesmen, writers, and publicists for years past; and, most powerfully of all, M. Thiers, who now denounces the war in such eloquent terms. For many years, and particularly since 1866, M. Thiers, by lip and by pen, has been preaching the right of France to dictate in Europe, and the necessity, to that end, of keeping all other peoples down. The creation of a united and strong Italy, he says, was a blunder; so was it to permit Sadowa and to tolerate the unity, and consequent strength, of Germany which resulted from that event; and these blunders it is necessary to rectify. So far, the Emperor and M. Thiers are agreed. Their only differences are as to the suitability of the time and the aptness of the occasion. The Emperor deemed the Hohenzollern candidature first, and when that failed, the Benedetti snub, sufficient pretext, and himself the most proper instrument, for gratifying French ambition—or, if the phrase be more acceptable, righting French grievances. M. Thiers disapproves of the time; he would have chosen his occasion more craftily; he would have waited till he could have put his enemy more palpably in the wrong; and perhaps he thinks other hands should do the work. Their divergences of policy are only on matters of detail; the end they pursue is the same; the same, too, are the passions to which they appeal, and, in a great measure, the instruments they would employ. The Emperor, therefore, is not alone responsible for this war; others must share the blame with him, and of those others we adduce M. Thiers as a type.

Of course, we put the Spanish-Hohenzollern intrigue and the alleged affront to M. Benedetti on one side. These were merely the occasions seized upon for carrying out a foregone conclusion; not the causes of the quarrel. The true source of grief lay deeper, for the dispute was still pursued when the one alleged cause had been removed; and, as regards the other, it is absurd to suppose that the French Government, were no other influences at work in their minds, would go to war merely because the King of Prussia, when rather hard beset and at a distance from his constitutional advisers, had been somewhat scant of courtesy in his mode of dealing with the French representative, and was weak enough to vaunt his brusqueness afterwards—if he ever did any such thing, which is extremely doubtful, M. Ollivier's asseverations to the contrary notwithstanding. To believe the French Government capable of incurring all the risks, as well as of courting all the evil certainties, of war for such a flimsy reason as an affront to an ambassador, even if such affront were really intended (which, indeed, might have been amply met by a suspension of diplomatic intercourse till explanations were afforded), would be to place them on a parallel as regards wisdom with the Doge Marino Falieri, who became a traitor to Venice because the "ribald Steno" made an improper jest at the expense of the Doge's young wife. We are beyond that kind of thing in these days, surely; and therefore we must look for the real causes of the war elsewhere than in the ostensible reasons assigned for it. Those causes we have already indicated: United Germany was becoming too great, too strong, to be agreeable to France; the King of Prussia, the head of the German Confederation, might rival the influence in Europe of the modern Cæsar; and Cæsar cannot endure a rival near his throne.

It is no justification of France now to say that Prussia has done wrong in the past—that she wronged Denmark in 1864, and Austria and the minor German States in 1866; for these wrongs were not perpetrated at the expense of France, which, if called upon to redress them at all, should have done so at the time. As regards the German States, indeed, current events would seem to indicate that no real wrong was done to them at all; or, if there was, that they have condoned the offence. At all events, they repudiate Gallic championship; for they have, one and all, cast in their lot with Prussia, and determined to join her in defending the common Fatherland. In the face of French invasion, we hear no talk of Prussian, or

Bavarian, or Saxon, or Wurtemberger, or Badener; all are Germans when Germany is to be defended; and it is clearly with Germany, not merely with Prussia, that the Emperor Napoleon has to do. That may not moderate French resentment or remove her jealousy of a united and powerful Germany; but it cuts the ground from under her plea of righting the alleged wrongs of minor German States. Some German Princes, no doubt, think they suffered by the arrangements that followed the war of 1866; but none of the peoples, who have most right to be considered, seem to feel injured; and if they are content, so may France and the rest of the world, so far as that matter is concerned.

The Emperor Napoleon, it is said, repudiates all desire of aggrandisement from the war; he will seek no accession of territory; he aims at no extension of the borders of France; he, as in 1859, wars only for an idea. We shall see. The professions of a belligerent at the beginning of a war rarely govern his conduct at its close. His pretensions *then* are bounded by his successes—he usually measures his demands by the power he has to enforce them. That is the general rule; and, no doubt, the Emperor Napoleon will act as respects acquisition of territory according to circumstances when the war is over; he will not hold himself bound by professions made at its commencement. But, if official France be self-denying or reticent as to ultimate designs, non-official France is neither the one nor the other. The Rhine as a boundary is openly proclaimed as the object to be aimed at; and, ere that end be attained, others besides Prussia must suffer. Prussia is not the only State that holds territory on the left bank of the Rhine; consequently, other States must be denuded of territory in order to "rectify the French frontier" according to French ideas. And that reminds us of another point. It is said that it is natural for France to be jealous of German greatness; and it is added that England would probably not like to see France acquiring such an increase of strength, and securing such a widening of her borders, as Prussia has achieved within the last four years. Possibly not; we will not undertake to say; the question is not before us—just yet, at all events—so we need not discuss it. But this we know, that France has had substantial accessions of territory since 1859; and, though England did not much approve the transaction, we are not aware that she went to war in order to hinder the transfer of Nice and Savoy from Italy to France. Then why should France make the acquisition of Hanover and other States by Prussia a *casus belli* now? Apologists of the Emperor Napoleon ought to mend their instance ere they drag British feeling into the question.

Turning for a moment to the Germans, we cannot help thinking that they, too, are stricken somewhat by the prevalent militant madness, though, to be sure, they caught the infection at secondhand; or, rather, were inoculated with the war *rabies* by their opponents. When the gauntlet was thrown down to them, they were nothing loth to pick it up; and it may be that some among them were not ill pleased to have an opportunity to stick the glove in their caps. They have this excuse, however, that they did not provoke the quarrel; so far as the world yet knows, it was thrust upon them. This seems clear from the fact, reported from many sources, that Prussia is less ready for the fray than is France. Preparations for war, as M. Ollivier asserts, were begun in Germany on the 14th inst., while negotiations were still in progress; whereas, according to M. Rouher, the Emperor of the French has been waiting for an occasion of quarrel, and preparing for a fight, during the last four years. Let all the world judge, then—to use M. Thiers's language—who has been most eager to provoke a conflict.

OPENING OF THE VICTORIA EMBANKMENT.

THE Victoria Embankment was duly opened on Wednesday, July 13, by the Prince of Wales. It was an interesting, but not an exciting, ceremony. Armies of workmen, engaged early and late upon the final preparations, had by soon after daylight delivered the new road from the chaos in which it was seen at bedtime on Tuesday. When at eleven o'clock in the morning the spectators began to take possession of their seats, the scene was an extremely pretty one. The Thames Embankment was fairly crowded with the general public, who had been admitted without question. On each side of the roadway, a little westward of Hungerford Bridge, stood a pavilion, and in it were seated about 5000 fashionably-dressed ladies and gentlemen. Beyond the bridge the vestrymen of the metropolis and their friends represented another five thousand. Crowds watched the proceedings from the bridges, from the house-tops, and from the thoroughfares that commanded a view of the approaches. Along the entire mile and a quarter of roadway Grenadier and Coldstream Guards were posted on each side of the way, at distances of ten feet. In the centre of the pavilion a huge standard, like the saluting-flag on a review-ground, marked the place where the formal portion of the ceremony was to take place. The pavilions were decorated in the best of taste, and the profusion of Venetian streamers and banners imparted to them a picturesqueness which one does not often see in English outdoor adornments. Every fifth yard of the roof was decorated with crowns of crimson velvet and gilding, and the uncovered woodwork, instead of being, as is customary, left to its own unpretending hues, was painted a delicate mauve colour. The substantial hoardings which will for some little time divide the roadway from the vacant land beyond were also painted with this bright colouring, and the contrast between it and the freshly-laid gravel was most agreeable. Towering shrubs, similar to those in Trafalgar-square, were placed at intervals, from the Westminster end, to match the trees growing on the opposite side of the Embankment. The greatest effort had been made at the entrance from Whitehall-place. The contents of several nurseries had there been brought into service, and to such good purpose that the ruddy pillars and dingy posts of Charing-cross railway-bridge seemed an actual aid to the beauty of the prospect, rather than the frowning eyesore they promised to be. From this point a clear view could be obtained of the straight, broad thoroughfare, with the Houses of Parliament standing boldly in the foreground at the Westminster end. Looking the other way from the vestrymen's seats, the picture, dotted as before with red coats and bearskins, was equally imposing; but, instead of the people's legislative hall at the terminus, there were the people themselves clustered thickly on Blackfriars Bridge. Somerset House, in the clearance, presents a much better view of its grand water-front

than it did before, and there is a welcome suggestion that did not strike one in the olden days of free open space in the region of the Temple. The statues on the Embankment pedestals would have been desirable adjuncts of the display had they not been amongst the gifts to be bestowed by the good time coming.

The regulations issued from Spring-gardens required the holders of tickets to be in their seats at eleven o'clock. The intimation that there would be no admittance afterwards was not of course literally construed by the police, but the majority of the visitors, innocently believing that it would be carried into execution like the laws of the Medes and Persians, were in their places an hour and a quarter before anything was done. This period of probation is always a dismal experience. Generally speaking, the ladies and gentlemen gathered together are strangers amongst strangers, and, as the fear of finding some one else in possession on returning prevents a restless person from strolling away for change and exercise, such moments pass in moody silence. The military bands alone interfered with the monotony which would otherwise have been suffered. The occupants of one pavilion quizzed the occupants of the other. Programmes were pored over repeatedly, probably in the same way as the advertisements of old newspapers are sometimes read through and through. The worst of it is, Time refuses to be killed, and patience is the only remedy. The British Grenadier is no doubt a fine specimen of the national defender, but even he fails to interest after being stared at for the best part of an hour, during which he never shifts his position, or removes his eye from that most useful object, which is called vacancy. There were two or three mounted officers, whose horses somewhat widened the field of thought; and one young Guardsman, with fixed eye-glass, caused a series of sensations by galloping wildly from Westminster to Blackfriars, and back again, until his charger was white with perspiration. Cheering in the distance came at length, however, like rest to the weary. It was twelve o'clock to the minute, and a commotion at the Westminster end of the road proclaimed that their Royal Highnesses, who had come from Marlborough House by way of the Mall, the Horse Guards, Whitehall, and Parliament-street, were at hand.

A couple of the escort (the Blues) were the first to ride officially over the new road. After them came several carriages containing the members of the Board of Works. Four dress state carriages conveyed the grand officers of state, and in the fifth rode the Prince of Wales, Princess Louisa, and the Master of the Horse. The occupants of the Royal carriages wore their full uniforms. At the Embankment Sir John Thwaites and other members of his board formally received the Prince and Princess. There was a stoppage of the procession at the pavilion to enable Sir John to present an address to the Prince. It welcomed his Royal Highness, and acknowledged with thanks her Majesty's favour and approbation upon the greatest public work ever undertaken in this country. It narrated the history of the Thames Embankment, from the time when, as an idea only, it occupied the "imagination of artists, engineers, and administrators," to the present moment. It bore full testimony to the value of the engineer of the board, and said the history of the undertaking would be incomplete "were we to omit the expression of our conviction how much of their success is due to the skill, forethought, and ceaseless care of Mr. Bazalgette." His Royal Highness afterwards, in shaking hands with Mr. Bazalgette, expressed his pleasure at making that gentleman's acquaintance. The Prince replied to the address of the board in the following terms:—"It is a source of great regret to me, as I am sure it cannot fail to be to you, that the Queen is unable to be present, according to her original intention, at this interesting ceremony. In her name, I thank you for your loyal address, and express to you the satisfaction with which she regards the completion of this great work. We must all rejoice that, while the Embankment and the noble roadway which I am happy this day to open in the name of her Majesty add largely to the beauty and convenience of the metropolis, the works connected with them may be expected materially to diminish the sources of disease and suffering to the inhabitants of this bank of the Thames. In no public work of this vast capital has the liberal and enterprising spirit of its citizens and the genius and resources of our civil engineers been more signally displayed. I am commanded by the Queen to congratulate you cordially on the issue of your labours in undertakings which promise to be so enduring and so beneficial."

The procession then passed slowly to Blackfriars, and slowly from Blackfriars to Westminster. In half a dozen words the Prince of Wales there declared the Victoria Embankment to be open to the public for ever. A Royal salute corroborated the declaration, and before the guns had ceased the glittering equipages were driving by the same route as before to Marlborough House. The crowds, released from the barriers which had kept them within bounds, with a shout of triumph at once swarmed over the new road.

M. and Madame de Lesseps were amongst the spectators.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Duke de Gramont, on Wednesday, formally announced to the Legislative Body that the declaration of war had been notified to the Cabinet of Berlin, and that a state of war now existed between France and Prussia and her allies. The announcement was received by the Chamber with loud cheers. The success of the Patriotic Fund furnishes an illustration of the strong national feeling which the war has aroused in France. The Duke de Montemart offers 100,000*fr.*, and the Paris stockbrokers have subscribed 60,000*fr.* The army of the Rhine is to consist of five corps-d'armée, a corps of reserve, and the Imperial Guard. Marshal Bazaine set out, last Saturday night, to take the command of his corps, and Marshal Canrobert left Paris on Sunday evening.

At a reception of the members of the Senate by the Emperor at St. Cloud, on the 16th inst., M. Rouher, addressing his Majesty, said:—"The guarantees demanded from Prussia have been refused, and the dignity of France has been disregarded. Your Majesty draws the sword, and the country is with you, trembling with indignation at the excesses that an ambition over excited by one day's good fortune, was sure, sooner or later, to produce. Your Majesty was able to wait, but has occupied the last four years in perfecting the armament and the organisation of the army." M. Rouher added, he ventured to hope that the Empress would again act as Regent, and that the Emperor would take the command of the army. The Emperor replied:—"Messieurs les Sénateurs,—I was gratified to learn with what great enthusiasm the Senate received the declaration which the Minister for Foreign Affairs had been instructed to make. Whenever great interests and the honour of France are at stake, I am sure to receive the support of the Senate. We are beginning a serious struggle, and France needs the co-operation of all her children. I am very glad that the first patriotic utterance has come from the Senate. It will be loudly re-echoed throughout the country."

Count Solms, the representative in Paris of Prussia since the departure of Baron Werther, received his passports, and left the French capital on Tuesday night. Mr. Washburne, the United States Minister, has accepted the protection of German subjects in France.

Great popular excitement prevailed for several days in Paris. Crowds paraded the streets, singing "The Marseillaise," and uttering shouts of "Down with the Prussians!" "On to the Rhine!" "On to Berlin!" &c. Some cries for peace were also heard; but these, it is said, were suppressed by the police. Indeed, it is insinuated that the popular demonstrations for war were organised and paid for by M. Pietri, who, it is alleged, expended £16,000 in rewarding the shouters. Similar demonstrations, however, are

reported from other parts of France; so, perhaps, those of Paris were really spontaneous. An Ultramontane journal, the *Paris Monde*, is of opinion that the present war will have a most important influence upon Catholicism, and that the triumph of France is necessary in order to check the progress of Protestantism, as represented by Prussia.

M. Rochefort's paper, the *Marseillaise*, reappeared on Tuesday, after its suspension of two months, but was immediately seized. It now announces that in consequence of this it will cease to publish political articles.

The *Français* of Wednesday evening says that Italy has given France the best assurances, and has declared that gratitude would determine her, in certain circumstances, to give active support to France. The *Journal des Débats*, also, says that Italy has resolved to maintain a friendly attitude towards France, who has not demanded any material assistance. The *Débats* considers that this disposition of Italy should determine the French Government to withdraw its troops from Roman territory, and render them useful in the war with Prussia.

SPAIN.

The Madrid papers generally blame the French Emperor for declaring war against Prussia. Spain appears to be quite tranquil, and is intent, it is declared, on observing strict neutrality. An extension of the Regent's powers for three years is talked of.

The French authorities have seized on board a sailing barque 700 muskets intended for the use of the Spanish Carlists, and it is expected, we are told, that other attempts will be made by that faction to convey arms into Spain. The Prefect of Perpignan has sent all Carlist partisans into the interior. A telegram from Bayonne says the Prefect has received rigorous orders to watch the frontier, and to confine suspected Carlists whenever necessary. Don Carlos, who had been summoned to Paris when a rupture with Spain seemed probable, has been ordered to quit France, and has retired to Switzerland.

BELGIUM.

The army of reserve occupies the Quadrilateral in front of Antwerp, composed of Termonde, Mechlin, Lierre, and Drest. The left bank of the Scheldt has been placed in a state of defence.

THE NETHERLANDS.

In Monday's sitting of the First Chamber the Government made a communication confirming the news that France and Prussia had given written assurances that they would recognise and respect the neutrality of the Netherlands. The Government also contradicted a rumour that one of the belligerent Powers had offered assistance to preserve Holland's neutrality. All the levies of the Civic Guard from 1860 to 1869 of the first class have been called out.

ITALY.

In Tuesday's sitting of the Italian Chamber a question was asked as to the attitude of the Government in the present European crisis. The Minister for Foreign Affairs stated, in reply, that Italy, like the other Powers, had done its best to maintain peace and that its policy would be one of observation. A request was then made that the correspondence of the Government with the other Powers should be laid before the House; but Signor Lanza declined to comply with the request just then. At the same sitting the announcement was made that the Government had decided upon calling out two classes of conscripts as a precautionary measure.

ROME.

At the public sitting of the Council, on Monday, the formal vote on the dogma of infallibility was taken, when 533 placets against two non-placets were recorded. The Constitution of Ecclesia Christi was proclaimed by the Pope, who pronounced a short allocution.

AUSTRIA.

It is generally understood that in the impending conflict Austria intends to observe towards both sides an attentive neutrality, and to maintain a passive attitude without mobilising any of her forces. In order to avoid all that might be misconstrued into warlike preparations, the great manoeuvres projected for this autumn have been countermanded in Austria. A decree of the Minister of Finance has been published, prohibiting the exportation of horses on all the Austrian and Hungarian frontiers.

The trial of the working men charged with belonging to a Socialist society was concluded on Tuesday. One of them, named Oberwinder, was sentenced to six years', and three others—namely, Schen, Moss, and Pabs—to five years' close confinement for high treason. Neln and others were condemned to imprisonment for periods varying from two to six months for taking part in public disturbances. Oberwinder and Moss were ordered to leave the country on the expiration of their sentences.

TURKEY.

It is announced from Constantinople that the reserves of the Turkish army have been called out.

DENMARK.

Advices from Copenhagen tend to show that Denmark will remain neutral in the struggle between France and Prussia.

THE UNITED STATES.

Great enthusiasm in favour of Prussia is being manifested throughout the United States, and large sums of money subscribed for the relief of the widows and orphans of the soldiers who may fall in the defence of Germany.

M. Prevost-Paradol, the French Envoy to the United States, committed suicide on Tuesday night. The cause is at present unknown, but it is thought that he was insane.

Mr. Frederick T. Frelinghuysen, of New Jersey, has been nominated Minister to England, vice Mr. Motley. Mr. Frelinghuysen has been senator from New Jersey, is a moderate Republican, but not a very prominent man. The Senate confirmed Mr. Frelinghuysen's appointment, after an ineffectual opposition by Messrs. Sumner and Wilson, by a vote of 40 to 3.

Baron F. de Gerolt, the Prussian Envoy at Washington, has been instructed by his Government to inquire of the United States whether vessels carrying the Prussian flag, but partly owned by Americans, will be allowed to carry the American flag. The Government inclines to it, but Congress must pass a law before it can be done. The President has sent a special message to Congress indicating a desire for them to make an appropriation for the purchase of the German mail-steamer carrying the American mails, and to take any other action rendered necessary by war.

President Grant has sent to the Senate copies of the diplomatic correspondence relative to the Alabama claims, which shows that Earl Clarendon, on May 6, in response to Mr. Motley's proposition to reopen the correspondence, stated that her Majesty's Government considered it neither useful nor expedient to continue a controversial correspondence in which there was so little hope of one Government convincing the other.

The anticipations of a general Indian war along the frontier are being realised. Most of the tribes—including the Yantons, Sioux, Arapahoes, Apaches, &c.—are openly at war; and General Sheridan has sent to Sherman for reinforcements, which have at once been sent from Washington. The Sioux have committed fearful atrocities on their prisoners, in the way of torture, before death came to their relief.

INDIA.

The Indian telegrams say that business at Calcutta is greatly disturbed, and the markets are depressed in consequence of the news received from Europe. A meeting of German merchants has been held for the purpose of raising subscriptions for the relief of the wounded in the war. A committee has been appointed, and the Consul of the North German Confederation will act as secretary. A considerable sum has been already subscribed.

Disastrous floods have occurred at Tirhoot, and several villages are under water.

CHINA.

The following telegram has been received in London, dated from Peking, June 25, coming via Kiatchka:—"Fouquier and thirteen other Frenchmen have been massacred at Tien-Tsin. No danger here. Tien-Tsin is now tranquil. The cathedral, convent, and consulate have been burnt."

WAR BETWEEN FRANCE AND PRUSSIA.

FRANCE.

An official declaration of war by France against Prussia has been dispatched to Berlin. Military preparations are being pushed on with great ardour by France and Prussia. In France the troops are marching from all points towards the frontier. Marshals Bazaine and Canrobert have set out to take their respective commands.

The following communication was read to the French Corps Législatif by M. Ollivier on the 15th inst.:

Gentlemen,—The manner in which you received the declaration of the 6th inst. afforded us the certainty that you approved our policy, and that we could count upon your support. We commenced then negotiations with the foreign Powers to involve their good offices with Prussia in order that the legitimacy of our grievances might be recognised. We asked nothing of Spain, whose susceptibilities we did not wish to wound. We took no steps with the Prince of Hohenzollern, considering him shielded by the King of Prussia, and we refused to mix up in the affair any recriminations upon other objects. The majority of the Powers admitted, with more or less warmth, the justice of our demands. The Prussian Minister of Foreign Affairs refused to accede to our demands, pretending that he knew nothing of the affair, and that the Cabinet of Berlin remained completely a stranger to it. We then addressed ourselves to the King himself, and the King, while avowing that he had authorised the Prince of Hohenzollern to accept the nomination to the Spanish Crown, maintained that he had also been a stranger to the negotiation, and that he had intervened between the Prince of Hohenzollern and Spain as head of the family and not as Sovereign. He acknowledged, however, that he had communicated the affair to Count Bismarck. We could not admit this subtle distinction between the chief of the family and the Sovereign. In the meanwhile we received an intimation from the Spanish Ambassador that the Prince of Hohenzollern had renounced the crown. We asked the King to associate himself with this renunciation, and we asked him to engage that, should the crown be again offered to the Prince of Hohenzollern, he would refuse his authorisation. Our moderate demands, couched in equally moderate language, written to M. Benedetti, made it clear that we had no *arrière pensée*, and that we were not seeking a pretext in the Hohenzollern affair. The engagement demanded the King refused to give, and terminated the conversation with M. Benedetti by saying that he would in this, as in all other things, reserve to himself the right of considering the circumstances. Notwithstanding that, in consequence of our desire for peace, we did not break off the negotiations. Our surprise was great when we learnt that the King had refused to receive M. Benedetti, and had communicated the fact officially to the Cabinet. We learnt that Baron Werther had received orders to take his leave, and that Prussia was arming. Under these circumstances we should have forgotten our dignity and also our prudence had we not made preparations. We have prepared to maintain the war which is offered to us, leaving to each that portion of the responsibility which devolves upon him (Enthusiastic and prolonged applause). Since yesterday we have called out the reserve, and we shall take the necessary measures to guard the interest and the security and the honour of France.

An animated discussion followed, in which M. Thiers, the Duc de Gramont, M. Jules Favre, and M. de Keratry took part. M. Jules Favre called upon the Government to communicate the documents which passed during the negotiations, and especially the Prussian despatch addressed to foreign Governments admitting the refusal of the King of Prussia to receive M. Benedetti. M. Buffet supported the demand for papers, but M. Jules Favre's motion was rejected by 164 votes against 83.

Preparations for the struggle are in progress in France with extraordinary activity, and immense military forces are being sent to the eastern frontier. The necessary financial measures also are being actively pushed forward. On Monday, in the Corps Législatif, the Government introduced bills granting supplementary credits of 440,000,000f. (£17,600,000) for the Ministry of War; 70,000,000f. (£2,800,000) for the Ministry of Marine; and 5,000,000f. (£200,000) for the Ministry of Finance. The maximum issue of Treasury bonds is to be raised from 150,000,000f. (£6,000,000) to 500,000,000f. (£20,000,000). All these bills have been voted. Members of the Chamber are to be authorised to take service in the National Mobile Guard as officers. The publication of intelligence respecting the military operations is prohibited.

GERMANY.

The Crown Prince of Prussia assumes the command-in-chief of the German Army of the South, and has already made the necessary communication on the subject to the Courts of Munich and Stuttgart.

In Germany the enthusiasm appears to be very great. At an afternoon concert which the King of Prussia attended at Coblenz he was received with warlike cries. Upon passing through Cassel an address of devotion was presented to him by the Burgomaster, to which his Majesty replied by expressing his gratification at the capital of a new Prussian province displaying such patriotic feeling. Upon returning to Berlin he is said to have been received with unbounded enthusiasm. Upwards of 100,000 persons were assembled to meet him, and the principal promenade of the city was decorated with flags and illuminated. Addresses, too, have been forwarded to him from the merchants of Stettin, Hamburg, and Bremen, expressing readiness to make the utmost sacrifices for the defence of the country.

The official *Staats Anzeiger* publishes under reservation of further communication two official documents in order to explain certain statements put forward by the French Ministers in the sitting of the Legislative Body held on the 15th inst. The first document, which has been drawn up under the immediate superintendence of the King himself, states that M. Benedetti demanded on the 9th inst. that the King should order the hereditary Prince of Hohenzollern to withdraw his acceptance of the Spanish crown. The King, however, declared that not having ordered the Prince to accept the crown, he could not order him to renounce it. In a second audience on the 11th inst., M. Benedetti endeavoured to put some pressure upon the King, demanding that he should impress upon the Prince the necessity of renunciation, but his Majesty replied that the Prince was free to act, and also was abroad. On the public promenade at Ems, on the 13th inst., the King handed to M. Benedetti an extra sheet of the *Cologne Gazette*, containing a private telegram in reference to a renunciation of the Prince of Hohenzollern, his Majesty adding at the same time that he himself had not yet received any letter from Sigmaringen on the matter in question. Thereupon, M. Benedetti declared that what he meant was a renunciation, and asked on the part of Prussia that the King should distinctly promise never again to consent to the candidature in question. His Majesty firmly declined to comply with this demand; but M. Benedetti nevertheless insisted upon a third audience in order to resume the topic. The King refused to grant this audience, on the ground that no further reply was necessary, and that all negotiations should pass through the hands of his Cabinet. The wish expressed by M. Benedetti to leave was granted by the King, and on his journey to Coblenz, in going to the station, his Majesty courteously saluted M. Benedetti. The second document contains a report by Prince Radziwill, Aide-de-Camp to the King, in reference to the manner in which he intimated to M. Benedetti the King's message declining another audience. The document declares that the whole of the audiences in question were merely of the character of private conversations, since M. Benedetti never stated that he acted by authorisation or as negotiator. The *Staats Anzeiger* says, in conclusion, that the French Government was well aware that Baron Werther was not recalled from Paris, but had merely received leave of absence, and had delegated his functions to Count Solms-Sonnenwalde, as on former occasions, and that he informed the Government of the matter.

It has been officially announced in Berlin that French merchantmen will not be captured by the German fleet, except under cir-

cumstances in which capture would be justifiable, if they were neutral ships.

THE NORTH GERMAN PARLIAMENT.

The North German Parliament was opened, on Tuesday, with a speech from the throne, delivered by King William in person. His Majesty said:—

"Honoured Gentlemen of the Parliament of the North German Confederation, "When at your last meeting I bade you welcome from this place, in the name of the Allied Governments, it was with joy and gratitude that I was able to bear witness to the fact that by the help of God success had rewarded my sincere efforts to meet the wishes of the people and the requirements of civilisation, by avoiding any disturbance of the peace of Europe. If, notwithstanding this assurance, the menace and imminence of war have now laid upon the Confederate Governments the duty of calling you together for an extraordinary Session, you, as well as ourselves, will be animated with the conviction that the North German Confederation has laboured to improve the national forces, not to imperil, but to afford a greater protection to universal peace; and that when we call upon this national army to defend our independence we only obey the mandates of honour and duty. The candidacy of a German Prince for the Spanish throne—both in the bringing forward and withdrawal of which the Confederate Governments were equally unconcerned, and which only interested the North German Confederation in so far as the Government of a friendly country appeared to base upon its success the hopes of acquiring for a sorely-tried people a pledge for regular and peaceful Government—afforded the Emperor of the French a pretext for a *casus belli*, put forward in a manner long since unknown in the annals of diplomatic intercourse, and adhered to after the removal of the very pretext itself, with that disregard for the people's right to the blessings of peace of which the history of a former ruler of France affords so many analogous examples. If Germany in former centuries bore in silence such violations of her rights and of her honour, it was only because, in her then divided state, she knew not her own strength. To-day, when the links of intellectual and rightful community, which began to be knit together at the time of the wars of liberation, join the more slowly, the more surely the different German races—to-day that Germany's armament leaves no longer an opening to the enemy, the German nation contains within itself the will and the power to repel the renewed aggression of France. It is not arrogance that puts these words in my mouth. The Confederate Governments, and I myself, are acting in the full consciousness that victory and defeat are in the hands of Him who decides the fate of battles. With a clear gaze we have measured the responsibility which, before the judgment-seat of God and of mankind, must fall upon him who drags two great and peace-loving peoples of the heart of Europe into a devastating war. The German and French peoples, both equally enjoying and desiring the blessings of a Christian civilisation and of an increasing prosperity, are called to a more wholesome rivalry than the sanguinary conflict of arms. Yet those who hold power in France have, by preconcerted misguidance, found means to work upon the legitimate but excitable national sentiment of our great neighbouring people for the furtherance of personal interests and the gratification of passions.

"The more the Confederate Governments are conscious of having done all our honour and dignity permitted to preserve to Europe the blessings of peace, and the more indubitable it shall appear to all minds that the sword has been thrust into our hands, so much the more confidently shall we rely upon the united will of the German Governments, both of the North and South, and upon your love of country, and so much the more confidently we shall fight for our right against the violence of foreign invaders. Inasmuch as we pursue no other object than the durable establishment of peace in Europe, God will be with us, as he was with our forefathers."

When the House met in the afternoon for the dispatch of business, Count Bismarck informed the members that the French Chargé-d'Affaires had delivered a declaration of war against Prussia. Hereupon all present rose and greeted the announcement with loud cheering, the persons in the gallery shouting "Hurrah!" Count Bismarck added, "After what we have heard from the King in the speech from the throne, I have nothing more to say." The address in reply to the speech from the Throne states that all Germany heard with joy and pride of the dignity and earnestness with which the King repelled the unheard-of presumption of France. As in the days of the first Napoleon, those who calculate now upon the divisions of Germany would be deceived; and the misguided French nation would find out, when too late, the mistake it had made. Public opinion throughout the world recognised the justice of the German cause, and friendly nations would see in its triumph a prospect of deliverance from the Bonapartist lust of power. This address, which all the members stood up to listen to, was adopted unanimously. Count Bismarck then said that the only document from the French Government which he possessed on the subject of the dispute was the declaration of war. A despatch from the Prussian Ambassador in Paris stating that the French Government wished a letter of apology from the King he considered ridiculous, and did not lay before his Majesty. Bills have been introduced granting a credit of 120,000,000 thalers for war purposes.

REJECTION OF MEDIATION.—REPORTED COMMENCEMENT OF HOSTILITIES.

It is announced from Paris that France has declined the mediation offered by the English Government in virtue of the Treaty of 1856, on the ground that the present circumstances do not come within the scope of that treaty. Count Bismarck stated, in the North German Parliament, on Wednesday, that Prussia had also rejected the mediation of England.

On Wednesday a report prevailed that an engagement had taken place between the French and Prussian troops at Forbach. It proved, however, to be a mere exchange of shots between some patrols and Custom-house guards. French troops are reported to have crossed to Rhenish-Prussian frontier on Tuesday, to have searched the Customs House at Solsterohe, and taken two Customs officers prisoners.

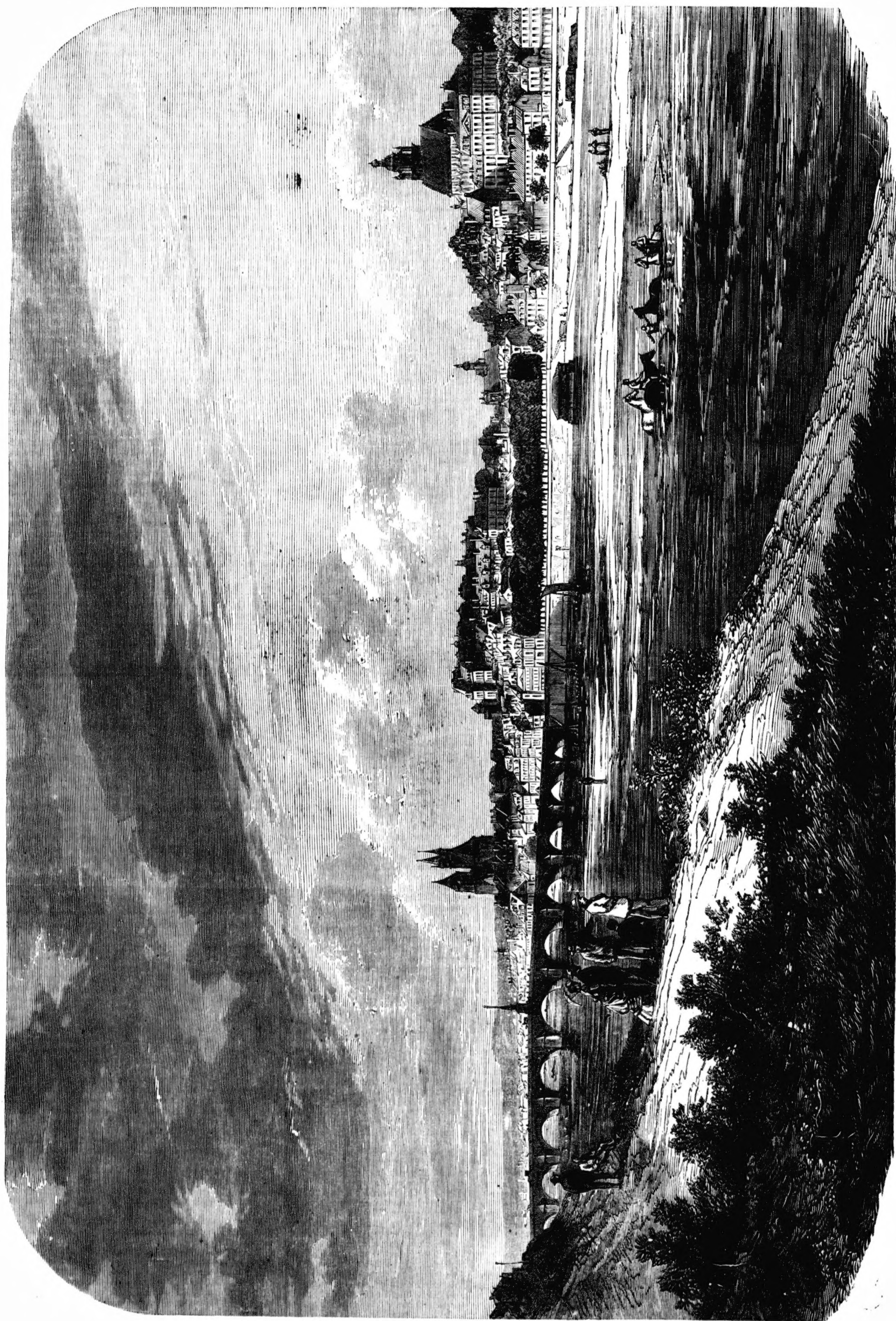
THE MINOR GERMAN STATES.

BAVARIA.—The Bavarian Minister in Berlin has been instructed to notify Count Bismarck that, in consequence of the declaration of war by France against Prussia, and the fact of an invasion of German territory, the Bavarian Government, on the ground of the treaty of alliance with Prussia, and as Prussia's ally, had entered into war with France, in conjunction with all the German Governments. The Chamber of Deputies has voted the extraordinary military credit of 18,200,000 florins demanded by the Government. The Upper House unanimously approved the votes of the Lower House for the military expenses. The Chamber expressed to the Minister of War its thanks for the good organisation of the army and the rapid manner in which the troops had been placed on a war footing.

WURTEMBERG.—Wurtemberg participates in the national war against France, and the French Envoy will receive his passports without delay.

HESSE-DARMSTADT.—In Wednesday's sitting of the Lower House of the Diet, Herr von Dalwigk, the Prime Minister, stated that the German frontier had been violated under frivolous pretexts. He declared that all particularist dissensions must disappear in face of the impending danger to the Fatherland; and he begged the House to sanction unanimously the bills which he had to submit. The credit for 3,376,000 fl. for the Hessian contingent and a loan of 1,800,000 fl. were agreed to nem. con. The sitting closed amid cheers for Germany, the King of Prussia, and the Grand Duke.

SAXONY.—The Saxon Minister at Paris has been recalled. The protection of Saxon citizens in France has been transferred to the American Minister.



THE CITY OF BLOIS, FRANCE, WHERE THE HIGH COURT IS NOW ENGAGED IN THE CONSPIRACY TRIALS.



FIRE IN THE LANDES, FRANCE: A POST OF OBSERVATION.—(SEE PAGE 53.)

BLOIS.

As Tours did on the occasion of the trial of Prince Pierre Bonaparte, so has Blois suddenly emerged into notice, as the scene of important state trials. The High Court of France assembled at Blois on Monday to examine into the charges of alleged conspiracy against the life of the Emperor Napoleon. A rumour was current a few days ago that an amnesty was to be granted to all the parties implicated except Mégy, who killed the commissary of police who went to arrest him; but this, it seems, is a mistake; and it is thought that while the Emperor is engaged in "revenging Sadowa" on the Prussians, the High Court may be usefully employed in revenging him upon his domestic enemies. No less than fifty-four prisoners were brought up in custody, but several others of the accused had avoided arrest and were not present. The counsel for the defence were even more numerous than the prisoners, many of whom were represented by two or the *avocats*. M. Zangiatomi was the presiding Judge. At the opening of the proceedings an application for the postponement of the trial was made by M. Arago, one of the defendants' counsel; but, after a brief discussion, the application was refused. The jury was then chosen, and the remainder of the sitting was occupied with the reading of the *acte d'accusation*, an enormously lengthy document, which recited in detail the incidents upon which the charges are based, and which have been already made public.

Blois, an ancient city, is situated in the department of the Loire-et-Cher, on the river Loire, a hundred miles south-west from Paris. The streets are narrow, and many of the houses low. The castle, intimately connected with many events in French history, stands on a rock overhanging the river. The principal public buildings are the cathedral, the Jesuits' College (now a provincial school), and the Episcopal Palace. The city has also a public library, with 20,000 volumes; boasts of a handsome bridge, as will be seen from our Engraving; and has manufactures of serge and other kinds of cloth, leather, vinegar, earthenware, hardware, and glass. The population is about 21,000. Before the time of Gregory of Tours, a French historian who lived in the sixth century, this was an important place. Thibaut, Count de Chartres, took possession of it in the reign of Charles the Simple, and his successors held it till the time of Guy II., who, in 1391, sold his possessions to the Duke of Orleans. Blois thence became the favourite residence of the Valois family. Louis XII. was born, and Francis I., Charles IX., and Henry III. resided, here. During the religious wars of the sixteenth century, Blois was, in 1576 and 1588, the place in which the meetings of the States, known as the States of Blois, were held. At the meeting in 1576 Jean Bodin defended the Royal prerogatives against the growing power of the League; but, unable to defeat it, Henry III. was obliged to put himself at its head. Again convoked after the "day of the barricades," 1588, the States made the "edict of union" a "state law," and called the Duke de Guise to the supreme power; but Henry III. caused him to be assassinated in the castle of Blois. In 1814 the Empress Maria Louisa retired to Blois, and her last decrees were dated from this city.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 386.

A DESPERATE STRUGGLE.

RATHER late in the evening of Thursday, the 14th, the House then being in Committee upon the Education Bill, Mr. Forster, in his quiet way, proposed an amendment which provides that the members of the school board shall be elected by secret ballot. A stranger looking down from his seat in the gallery could not have imagined, from Mr. Forster's calm, easy, matter-of-course manner, that this proposal of his would evoke much strife and contention. But, in truth, it was a declaration of war, that simple proposition of his. For he knew, as all the Ministers of the Crown, and, indeed, every member of the House knew, that the amendment would be met with the sternest opposition, and that the strong body of the Conservatives massed in front had been whipped up—summoned as by the sound of a trumpet—resolutely and obstinately to resist the introduction of the odious ballot into this bill. "The ballot! We won't have the ballot! Rather than have it, we will postpone the bill, or even throw it out!" The Conservatives were enraged at this attempt to introduce the ballot as "by a side-wind" as they said. And in truth, the policy of the Government was not unanimously approved by the Liberal party. "We have got on with the bill," some said, "peacefully, on the whole. Why, then, throw amongst us the elements of strife? Next year we are to have a great battle upon the ballot question. Why, then, should we be plagued prematurely with a petty skirmish in this small arena? Besides, if we pass the amendment here, no doubt the Lords will throw it out, and, considering the circumstances, will have a right to throw it out." Thus murmured not a few Liberal malcontents. However, the thing was done—done deliberately; the opposing forces had assembled, and the battle must go on. The fight lasted many hours. The exact time when it began we failed to record; but the time when the last gun was fired was about five o'clock on Friday morning, and during the struggle there were fourteen divisions. It is quite beyond our power, with the small space at our command, to make all the details of the struggle intelligible to our readers, nor is it necessary that they should be made intelligible. There was a good deal of manoeuvring and strategy; but, whatever form this might take, the main question was this—"Shall these electors vote by ballot or in the usual open way?" The Government said they shall vote by ballot. "Very well, then, we will stop the bill," was the defiant reply. Now, here let our readers note, when a strong minority determines to postpone a bill, it generally succeeds. The plan, as we have often shown, is this: A member wishing to postpone a bill moves that the debate be now adjourned. He is beaten by a great majority. But in a short time another gets up and moves that the House do now adjourn. It seems that the adjournment of a debate or of the House cannot be moved twice in succession; so it is the custom to move, first, the adjournment of the debate; then, the adjournment of the House; then again, the adjournment of the debate; and so on until the end is gained. When the House is in Committee, as it was on Thursday night, the adjournment of the debate or of the House cannot be moved. The form then is that "the Chairman do report progress," or "that the Chairman do leave the chair." Into the philosophy of this we need not enter.

THE FIRST SHOT.

After Mr. Forster had moved his amendment, there was much debating upon the proposal; and then was moved an amendment to his amendment, and an amendment upon that amendment; but all this we may pass by as irrelevant. The real fight began when Colonel Barttelot rose and moved that "the Chairman do report progress." That was really the first shot fired; and by a loud cheer the Conservatives proclaimed that the fight had begun. Mr. Gladstone asked if the honourable and gallant gentleman was serious. The honourable and gallant gentleman nodded his head, as much as to say, "quite serious." Whereupon the Prime Minister, amidst defiant cheers from the Liberals, declared that all such motions must be "utterly resisted." Of course this brought up Mr. Disraeli. When the leader of the Liberal party grows a challenge, the leader of the Opposition must crow his defiance. The Committee then promptly divided. And now, readers, please to mark these divisions as they will follow in succession. The numbers on this division were—For postponement, 136; against, 244; majority, 108. After this there was a lull, and we had two divisions; but as these were not upon motions for delay, but upon certain amendments, we do not record them.

SUBSEQUENT ROUNDS.

The next motion for postponement was made by Sir James Elphinstone, who, of course, sailor-like, is always to the fore when a fight is toward. Before the division upon this motion was taken, Mr. Disraeli made a speech; and a remarkable speech it was for Mr. Disraeli to make at that time of night (past midnight by at least an hour). Usually at such an hour, Disraeli,

when he speaks, is pugnacious, denunciatory, sarcastic—calling from his friends behind roars of cheers or laughter; but on this occasion he was in the mildest mood. Indeed, he was so calm, so persuasive, and so complimentary to his opponents, that we wondered what could have come over him. "Would not the right hon. gentleman (Mr. Gladstone) reconsider the matter, and let the electors vote in the usual way? The ballot was not in the original bill. Why should he rudely disturb our harmony by introducing it now? Perhaps he will reconsider it." To this the Premier had, of course, to reply. "Appreciate the mildness of the right hon. gentleman's language; but, sorry to say, cannot comply with his request." Such was the substance of the Premier's speech; and so the Committee at once divided on Sir James Elphinstone's motion. The numbers on this occasion were—for the motion, 114; against, 210; majority, 96. Since the last division, as our readers will see, the Government had lost thirty-four votes; the Conservatives twenty-two. After this, there was an attempt to destroy the ballot by an amendment made by Lord John Manners, and a division upon the noble Lord's proposal; but this we will not notice. This disposed of, Mr. Arthur Guest, the member for Poole, renewed the motion for reporting progress; and thereupon a division was promptly taken, and the numbers found to be—ayes, 90; noes, 178; majority, 88. The Liberals, then, had lost twenty-two; the Conservatives twenty-four. As soon as the division was announced, Mr. Vance, many years a member for "Doobin city," now representative of Armagh, moved "that the Chairman do leave the chair." The division on this stood thus:—Ayes, 82; noes, 171; majority, 89. The Conservatives had lost eight; the Liberals seven. It had got to be very late when this division was announced; but how late it was we cannot exactly tell. But we should say it was certainly past three—perhaps nearer four; and, when we saw that there were still eighty-three Conservatives in the House, we could scarcely believe that Gladstone would go on much longer. "No, he must give way," we said. "It is contrary to all experience that he can beat such a considerable and obstinate minority as this." And this was coming to be the opinion of most of the experienced members. Suddenly, however, Mr. Gladstone rose, and by a few trumpet-toned words soon changed the aspect of affairs:—"I have often," he said, "bowed to the wishes of a minority after the division for reporting progress, but there are occasions when it is the duty of the majority to assert its right. The state of public business renders this such an occasion, and I am resolved to proceed, leaving the right and wrong to the verdict of the country." A volley of applause followed this brave and defiant speech; and, as one could see, the Liberals promptly vowed to stand by their chief and do or die. The sun was now rising, but few thought of going to bed. "Bed! no. Let's go and liquor up," said one; and the crowd which beset the refreshment-stalls and the constant popping of soda-water corks showed us that this on the Liberal side was the general thought:—"Never say die; but liquor up for another round or two." "By-the-way," said one in the House, "we don't want the gas;" and straight-way a member rose and asked the Sergeant-at-Arms to get the gas turned off; and promptly the gas-man's bell was rung, and the gas, which had long been struggling ineffectually with the morning light, disappeared amidst cheers and laughter. Such was the humour we were in. After this there was but little debating, though there was a good deal of chaffing talk. Mr. James Lowther was the next to move for a postponement. A notable night-bird is Mr. James Lowther, and uncommonly fond of a row. Singular enough, the solemn old cathedral city of York sends us this lively young gentleman. On Mr. Lowther's motion the division stood thus: Ayes, 64; Noes, 161—97. Since the last division, then, the Conservatives had lost eighteen, the Liberals ten. Who now will be the next to mount the breach? Captain Seymour, we see. The Captain is a new member, and this is the first chirp since he left the shell; the gallant Captain was received by a volley of groans; the result of the division was, Ayes, 66; noes, 161—105. Bravo! the Conservatives have lost eight, the Liberals none. The next motion, made by Mr. F. W. Cartwright, brought out a curious result: the numbers were, Ayes, 59; noes, 160—101. By this the Liberals lost one and the Conservatives gained eight. But this must be a mistake, as certainly some members went away, and it is equally certain that no one returned. This, though, for a time was rather a damper; indeed, the ugly suggestion came to some minds that the Conservative whips were getting their men back. But the next division, on motion made by Mr. George Cubitt, told a different tale, for the numbers stood thus: Ayes, 30; noes, 148—118. The Conservatives had lost half their number, the Liberals only twelve. Loud cheers greeted the announcement of these numbers. "One more division!" exclaimed the chief whip, who, with his two colleagues, had all through kept watch and ward at the door, "and we shall settle them." And now, who will lead the forlorn hope? for to such desperate pass had the cause of the Conservatives come. A roar of cheers and groans told us that somebody was up; but, for a time, we could not discern who it was, and we could no more hear his voice than the screams of a sea-mew can be heard in a tempest. At last, by steadfastly looking in the direction towards which all eyes were turned, we discovered that it was Sir Percy Burrell.

THE END.

Sir Percy Burrell, son of Sir Charles Burrell, who sat for Shoreham from 1806 to 1862, is one of our oddities. His peculiar characteristics are silence and unsociability. He rarely speaks in the House or out of it, and seems to associate with nobody. His place is near the Speaker's chair, on the Conservative side of the House, where he sits for hours, silent, and motionless, and impassive as a statue. But at rare intervals, perhaps twice in a Session, in the small hours, just as Mr. Speaker or the Chairman of Committees is about to put the question, he slowly rises and speaks; but what he says nobody but those who sit close to him can hear, or ever tries to hear. The Liberals were in the jolliest mood when Sir Percy rose, and they chaffed the poor man unmercifully. He did not keep long upon his legs. His flashes of inspiration are few and far between, like angels' visits, and very short. But, had he been minded to make a long speech, the storm of cheers and groans, and laughter, and chaff would have speedily changed his mind. Singularly enough, although everybody knew that the end of the fight was at hand, there was more talk after Sir Percy sat down than there had been for an hour or more. The Liberal members seemed to have lost all desire to go home. "Go home," said a young fellow; "no, we mean to go it." And it was the same with old and young. Many a grey head glittered in the morning sun's light. John Locke, the member for Southwark, is no chicken; he is sixty-six years old. But, nevertheless, he was lively as a cricket; so lively, indeed, that, though the hand of the clock was about to note the departure of the fifth hour "ayont the twal," he must make a speech. There was no need for a speech. The victory was all but won. Why, then, should the honourable member keep people out of their beds any longer? Well, it was his humour; and, what is still stranger, it was the humour of the House to listen, and laugh, and cheer to the echo. Addressing the few Conservatives left, he said, "Look at the condition to which the poor man who has just spoken is reduced. Nobody could catch a word he said. And how pale he looks! Let the Conservatives take note of his condition, and go home to bed, or they will be as bad as he is," &c. But we must proceed to the division. The numbers this time were—Ayes, 19; noes, 144; majority, 125. This was a settler. The nineteen, as soon as the doors were opened, hurried away—not, though, without a parting cheer, our readers may be sure. As every opponent now was gone, the Liberals rose en masse and rushed away too, except a dozen or so, who called at the stall for another "liquor up," and the Ministers of the Crown, who stopped to do a little routine business. The House rose at 5.10. Mr. Dodson, with an interval of ten minutes for tea, had sat in the chair twelve hours. Mr. Speaker went to bed early, leaving Mr. Dodson, as Deputy Speaker, to wind up the business and adjourn the House.

A BEWILDERED PEER.

Early in the evening a peer came down to the House. As he was unknown to the doorkeeper, he was stopped. "I am a peer," said the noble Lord. Whereupon he was directed to the gallery. The staircase of the Peers' Gallery descends into the inner lobby. In a short time his Lordship came down and went along the Division Lobby to a side door leading into the House. Through this he entered the House and took his seat on the Treasury bench, by the side of Mr. Baxter, with whom he began to chat. Mr. Laird, of Birkenhead, rose to speak; and the peer asked Mr. Baxter if "that was the Marquis of Salisbury." Mr. Baxter, wondering that a member of the House should be so ignorant, told his Lordship that the gentleman speaking was Mr. Laird. But so bewildered was his Lordship that this information did not open his eyes to the fact that he was in the wrong House. At this moment one of the doorkeepers caught sight of his Lordship, and told him that he must not sit there. "Why not?" he asked, "I am a peer." "But this is the House of Commons," was the reply; and thereupon his Lordship walked out. This bewildered peer was Lord St. John, of Melchbourne Park, in the county of Bedford.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JULY 15.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

On the assembling of the House, inquiries were made as to the state of affairs on the Continent; but as events have since taken a decided turn, the information Lord Granville was able to afford is superseded.

On the order of the day for considering the Commons' amendments to the Lords' amendments on the Irish Land Bill, Lord GRANVILLE moved that their Lordships should not insist upon the alteration they had made in the original scale of compensation for disturbance, and the motion was agreed to, with the consent of the Duke of RICHMOND. At the instance of the noble Duke, however, the House adhered to the amendments relating to permissive registration and the conditions of ejectment, and appointed a Committee to draw up reasons for so doing.

Subsequently, in reply to an inquiry of the Duke of MANCHESTER, Lord GRANVILLE justified the proposed transfer of the Gambia to the French, and added that it would be difficult to show that this country could gain any advantage from the retention of the settlement.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE WAR ON THE CONTINENT.

Mr. DISRAELI drew attention to the state of the relations between France and Prussia, and remarking that he could not believe that in the nineteenth century the world was to witness another war of succession, and that the statement of the French Minister in the Corps Législatif on that point disposed of the idea that the crown of Spain was the cause of the present complication, proceeded to notice the report that between the two Powers an unhappy misconception had arisen and much jealousy excited in respect of certain open and unsettled questions, and that there was a resolution in some quarters to bring about a precipitate settlement of those questions. If there were any truth in these representations, it seemed to him that the cause of controversy was purely a diplomatic matter. Both the great Powers had had occasion, within the last few years, to solicit the good offices of England, and had even asked her to join in perilous engagements with a view to the termination of differences, and the preservation of the peace of Europe. Under these circumstances, he held that France and Prussia had no right to go to war without consulting this country; and he wished to know, therefore, whether this view of the case had been fairly put by England before the two Powers. Had the Government reminded them of the great sacrifices and exertions which the English Sovereign had made to advance their interests and secure the public peace?

Mr. GLADSTONE, whilst speaking with some reserve, admitted that in the opinion of her Majesty's Government there was nothing in the circumstances which had occurred to justify, in the judgment and conscience of the world, a breach of the general peace. With regard to the causes which might have brought about the present menacing state of affairs, he considered that it was the duty of those who had official responsibilities to avoid all reference to them at this moment; but he was bound to say that neither the States concerned had shown the slightest indisposition to receive from England her friendly advice and good offices. As to the actually existing state of affairs he had no decisive communication to make; but he was sorry to say that the course of negotiations had not, on the whole, been of a favourable character. Any good offices that Ministers could render were necessarily of a limited kind; but he entertained the hope that when the time came for explaining in detail that which was now his duty to withhold the House would be of opinion that the Government had not fallen short of what it ought to have done, and had not done more than it ought to have done.

CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES.

The remainder of the morning sitting was mainly occupied with the consideration of the Civil Service Estimates in Committee of Supply. On the reassembling at nine o'clock, the House was counted out.

MONDAY, JULY 18.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

FRANCE AND PRUSSIA.

Earl GRANVILLE stated, in answer to questions put by Earl Russell, bearing upon the war, that Ministers hoped soon to be able to lay all the papers before Parliament, when it would be most convenient to their Lordships and fair to the Government to make a formal statement on the subject. It was too true that a declaration of war had, the previous evening, been sent from France to Berlin, and it would be the duty of her Majesty's Government to issue immediately a proclamation of neutrality. A fortnight ago the relations of the Government with the Governments of France, Prussia, and Spain were most friendly; and although during the last ten days they had felt it to be their duty to use the strongest possible language consistent with their dignity and self-respect, these relations had not been in the least impaired. Under these circumstances, Ministers held it to be their duty to do their best to maintain a strictly neutral attitude, and to act with the utmost impartiality towards all parties, believing that by so doing they would be in a better position when a favourable opportunity offered to act with greater influence and usefulness.

BUSINESS.

Several bills were forwarded a stage, including the Life Assurance Companies Bill, which was read a second time on the motion of the Duke of Richmond; the Married Women's Property Bill passed through Committee, on the motion of Lord Cairns; and the Prayer-Book (Tables of Lessons) Bill was read a third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE WAR.

Mr. GLADSTONE, replying to an inquiry of Mr. V. Harcourt, made a statement similar to that of Lord Granville in the Upper Chamber, and added that it was intended to bring in a measure founded upon the recommendations of the Royal Commission of 1868 for a more complete and effectual fulfilment of all obligations that might be considered to attach to us by the law of nations under whatever contingencies with respect to ships departing from our ports.

BUSINESS FOR THE SESSION.

Mr. GLADSTONE informed Lord E. Fitzmaurice that Ministers were not then able to form a positive opinion with regard to the chance of passing the University Tests Bill this Session, although they did not despair of doing so. Certain motions had been carried in the House of Lords, the first conclusions drawn from which was, that they would be fatal to the measure; but from what had since come to their knowledge Ministers deemed it necessary to take a few days for consideration before finally concluding that that would be the result. At the invitation of Mr. Cross, the Premier announced that the Savings Banks Bill was to be withdrawn. He further mentioned, for the information of the House, that the like fate awaits the Mines Regulation Bill and the Parliamentary Elections Bill.

Mr. LEATHAM, amid Liberal cheers, gave notice that, in consequence of the withdrawal of the Parliamentary Elections Bill, he should proceed with the second reading of his Vote by Ballot Bill on Wednesday week.

SUPPLY—ARMY ESTIMATES.

Subsequently the House went into Committee of Supply on the Army Estimates; and, amongst other subjects, discussed the question of small arms, the merits of the Martini-Heckler rifle, and those of the Whitworth and the Armstrong guns. When the Chairman reported progress, at dinner-time, all the votes had been agreed to, with the exception of that for Army administration, which was reserved.

ARMY ENLISTMENT BILL.

The House next went into Committee on the Army Enlistment Bill, and Major DICKSON proceeded to move that the Chairman leave the chair, on the ground that the measure had been introduced at a time of peace, and that it was dangerous to experimentalise with the Army at a moment when two of the greatest military Powers in Europe were at war, and we did not know how soon we ourselves might be drawn into the conflict. Considerable discussion followed; but eventually the motion of Major Dickson was negatived, and the Committee proceeded to consider the clauses. Colonel BARTELOT moved to extend the lowest term of enlistment from three years, as proposed by the bill, to five years; but was defeated, on a division, by 122 to 56. Another amendment, proposed by the same hon. and gallant member, that

the term should be three years for the infantry and seven years for the cavalry, artillery, and engineers, was also negatived, by 111 to 85. The bill was then passed through Committee with some verbal amendments.

TUESDAY, JULY 19. HOUSE OF LORDS.

On the order for reading the New Zealand Guarantee of Loan Bill the second time an objection was raised by Lord GREY to the principle of the measure, the noble Lord being of opinion that if one colony were to be thus favoured others ought not to be refused. Lord CARNARVON assented to the principle, though he described it as anti-constitutional to the policy that had in the first instance been enunciated by Ministers. Lord GRANVILLE admitted that he could not defend such loans upon general principles, but the case was an exceptional one, and on that ground was justifiable. The behaviour of the friendly natives had been admirable, and it was deemed desirable that they should be employed as far as possible in useful occupations like the making of roads, which would not only have the effect of opening up the country, but lead to its pacification. The bill was ultimately read the second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. THE EDUCATION BILL.

The House at the morning sitting having entered upon the consideration of the amendments on the Education Bill, a proposal by Mr. Dickinson to facilitate the alteration of regulations affecting the manager or teacher of a school was carried upon a division; but a clause, moved by Sir G. Jackson, to exempt from rating the subscribers to voluntary schools was rejected by a majority of 50—120 to 70; and a proviso, recommended by Mr. Arthur, in order to secure the existence in every district of a school in which a conscience clause should be in operation, shared a similar fate, being negatived by 102—168 to 66. The old question, whether the school boards in boroughs should be elected by the town councils or by the burgesses, was, in the first instance, raised by Mr. Dixon; but, after a short conversation, the hon. gentleman withdrew his own proposal and allowed the division to be taken upon an amendment of which notice had been given by the Vice-President of the Council, conferring upon the burgesses the right of election, and this proposition was carried by a majority of 216—273 to 57. Lord A. Hervey moved the introduction into clause 92 of a proviso making the receipt of assistance from the Parliamentary grant by any school dependent upon the daily use of the Holy Scriptures; and this proposal was supported by Sir J. F. E. Kingdon as well as by Mr. Newdegate, who severely tried the patience of the House by the length of the remarks he addressed to them upon the subject. It was, however, opposed alike by Mr. W. E. Forster and Mr. T. Collins; and, upon a division being taken, was rejected by a majority of 116—205 to 89. Lord J. Manners asked the House to omit from the second schedule the words requiring that the poll for the members of the school boards should be taken by ballot, which led to the protracted debates and repeated divisions of last Thursday evening; but, without entering upon a fresh discussion of the question, a majority of 91 members, 197 to 106, declined to accede to his request. A question as to the nature of the ballot to be adopted was raised by Sir C. Dilke, and before it could be decided the sitting was suspended.

MR. LEONARD EDMUNDS.

When the House re-assembled, at nine o'clock, the Speaker was unable to take the chair; and the Prime Minister was similarly prevented by illness from being in his usual place on the Treasury bench. Mr. Bruce appealed to members who had motion or bills upon the paper to postpone them to a future day, in order that the consideration of the Education Bill might be resumed at an early hour; but this appeal was only partially successful. Mr. Eykyn, indeed, who stood first upon the paper, withdrew his motion for the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the constitution of the metropolitan police force; but Mr. Russell Gurney felt bound to call attention to the arrest and detention of Mr. Leonard Edmunds at the suit of the Crown—two proceedings which he condemned in the most emphatic language. His remarks drew from the Attorney-General a very full statement of the case against Mr. Edmunds, and a careful argument in vindication of the measures which had been adopted by the advisers of the Crown. A debate followed, which resulted in the adoption of a formal motion that a copy of the warrant under which Mr. Edmunds was arrested should be laid upon the table.

THE SERPENTINE.

A conversation upon the subject of the Serpentine, which was initiated by Captain Grosvenor and Mr. B. Cochrane, elicited from Mr. Ayrton the information that the mud is to be removed from the bottom of the lake, and to be replaced by clay and gravel. The right hon. gentleman held out no hope that he will improve the accommodation for bathing, which, as now carried on, he described as "the most indecent, obscene, and disgusting spectacle that is to be witnessed in any city in Europe, Asia, or Africa;" or will reduce the depth of water below the limits proposed under the contract now being carried out; and a resolution moved by the gallant member for Westminster in favour of this latter proceeding was negatived by a majority of 103—149 to 46.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The first business was Mr. P. Taylor's Game Laws Abolition Bill, which stood for adjourned debate on second reading. The debate was resumed by Mr. McLagan, who briefly supported the bill, which was opposed by Mr. Clare Head in a weighty speech, in which the question of the preservation of game was examined with great fairness and in a judicial spirit. He was succeeded by Mr. Tillet, the new member for Norwich, who was thorough for the abolition of all game laws. The debate went on for some time but, until the Lord Advocate spoke: he was abnormally animated, and even amusing. Mr. Taylor was vigorous and shrewd as usual in his reply, which, judging from the interruption he received from the Opposition, was not pleasing to them. A division was taken on the "previous question," which had been moved on a former occasion by Mr. Hardcastle, and it was carried by 147 to 59; so the bill fell through.

The adjourned debate on the Contagious Diseases Act Repeal Bill having been called on, Mr. Jacob Bright rose to continue it. Thereupon Mr. Crawford came forward, and drew the attention of the Speaker to the fact that there were strangers in the gallery. Lord Bury started up, charged with a protest; but the Speaker peremptorily silenced him, and the officers of the House set about to eject the unprivileged spectators, who remained excluded until a quarter to six, when the debate was suspended.

THURSDAY, JULY 21.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords sat only for a short time, when a number of bills were passed through various stages.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. J. GOLDSMID took the oath and his seat for Rochester, in the room of Mr. Serjeant Kinlake, deceased.

THE WAR.

Mr. HORSMAN put a question to the First Lord of the Treasury as to the expectations by which the King of Prussia was induced to advise the withdrawal of the Prince of Hohenzollern's candidature for the crown of Spain, and as to the communications which have been addressed to France by the Governments of Russia and Austria since the intended declaration of war was made known.

Mr. GLADSTONE said the Government had considered the first question, and had come to this conclusion:—That they had no knowledge of the degree in which the precise words of the question would be borne out, nor had they any knowledge of the expectations of the King of Prussia, except such as had been derived from the papers which would be laid on the table of the House to-morrow. It would be better, therefore, to wait until those papers had been produced. With respect to the second question, they had no information at present of any communications between Russia and France intimating that in case of war the sympathies of the former would be with Prussia. The Government, however, had sufficient information to justify them in believing that both Russia and Austria had used their best endeavours to preserve the peace of Europe.

In reply to Mr. Seymour, Mr. GLADSTONE said they had no information whatever upon the subject of a secret treaty between France and Denmark, and they had not the slightest reason to believe in the existence of such a treaty.

In answer to Sir H. Bulwer and Mr. Heygate, Mr. GLADSTONE said that the Government had received assurances of the most satisfactory character that the neutrality of Luxemburg and Belgium would be preserved by both belligerents as far as the circumstances of the war would permit.

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS.

As soon as the questions had been disposed of, Mr. HENLEY rose and called the Speaker's attention to the fact that there were strangers in the gallery.

The SPEAKER being compelled to order the withdrawal of strangers, the reporters left the House, and the other galleries were at once cleared.

On the readmission of the reporters to the gallery it was ascertained that the motion was made with the view of bringing this question to an issue. Mr. Gladstone undertook, on the part of the Government, to appoint a Select Committee to consider the subject next Session.

THE EDUCATION BILL.

The further consideration of this bill in Committee was resumed; when, after some discussion, the question of vote by ballot was carried in favour of the Government by 185 to 115. The bill was then ordered for the third reading the next day.

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SANCTA PUDICITIA!

ABOUT this time, as Moore's Almanack has it, we are usually treated by our daily and one or two of our weekly contemporaries to articles of savage decency about the habits of English bathers. This year, the War throws even the delicacy of the British journalist into abeyance, and we miss the usual fierce eloquence with which he proves to us in July that our morality is being gradually undermined by rude people at Broadstairs and Scarborough. But what he lacks, Mr. Ayrton has supplied. The First Commissioner of Works is probably the most bashful man—to use his own language—"in Europe, Asia, or Africa." His tenderness, his sweetness, his virginal delicacy, are the admiration of the House of Commons and the public. Hence the weight which attaches to his testimony when he declares, from his place in Parliament, that the bathing in the Serpentine is "the most obscene, indecent, and disgusting spectacle to be witnessed in Europe, Asia, or Africa." As we happen never to have witnessed the "spectacle," we cannot say; but this accumulation of adjectives is rather puzzling; and, even in the face of a European convulsion, one cannot help feeling profoundly curious to know what it is that has so stirred the pure mind of Mr. Ayrton that neither "indecorous" nor "indecent" will, by itself, suit his purpose; but he must inform the world at large that, if they want to see something very particularly abominable, they must come to the West-End of the capital of England in the bathing season. As the bathing in the Serpentine must take place before a certain hour in the early morning, or after a late hour in the evening, there must surely be some mystery about all these adjectives. Can it be that the female population of Kensington get up at five in the morning, or rush out in shoals after eight at night, and line the banks of the Serpentine? If not, what can it be? The omission, so general in England, of the *caleçons*, so general on the Continent, is indecorous, and is one instance of the coarseness of the English grain; but can that be all Mr. Ayrton means when he speaks of an "indecent, disgusting, and obscene spectacle?" and then, when questioned by cries of "Oh!" adds that there is nothing so bad in three out of the four quarters of the globe? If so, we must overhaul our vocabularies. If not, there must be a case for the interference of Colonel Henderson—and then of the Attorney-General.

The truth is, nothing is more ludicrous than the "sensational" manner in which such matters as those are talked about. How many times have our superfine contemporaries urged upon us the superiority of the French system to our own! Yet at an English watering-place, what do you see? Women, in hideous wide sacks, bobbing about in such a way that not a line of the figure is to be seen, and an occasional glimpse of a man's head and shoulders above the water. There is more than this, no doubt, but so little more that the harm done by writing "sensational" leaders about it is infinitely greater than the harm done by the thing itself. But at a French watering-place, what do you see? You see women in dresses differing very little from those which at our theatres and music-halls are denounced by our indignant journalists as little better than nakedness; and these women attended by cavaliers whose attire is still more scanty. It is ten times worse, in fact, than the system at Bath in the old days, when, according to Anstey, you might

... behold the fair sex

All wading with gentlemen up to their necks—

in bath costume, of course. In truth, the journalists who write up the Continental system deliberately attempt to humbug us. They know in their hearts that that system is much less favourable to social insulation and the self-respect of women than our own no-system; and they advocate it from prurient motives, and those motives only.

Not without hesitation—because we do not wish to lacerate still more keenly the outraged delicacy of Mr. Ayrton—we yet, from a pained sense of public duty, ask him whether he knows of the horrible spectacles which are to be daily witnessed on the banks of the Thames? There you may see little boys of seven, eight, nine, ten, possibly eleven years of age, without *caleçons*, dabbling in the mud and the water, in spite of the crowded steam-boats and the passengers on the banks! We cannot state that we have observed much feeling evinced by motherly-looking persons of fifty, forty, thirty, or even twenty, when "a forked radish, with a head fantastically carved," has been sighted ahead. But the "maiden of bashful fifteen" may sometimes be seen to drop her parasol and look hard at nothing; nay, perhaps, to her still greater confusion, at a lifelike drawing of an empty shirt, six for forty shillings; or one of those highly improper nigger-looking pictures designed to puff Cash's new bath towelling. We submit that, from Mr. Ayrton's point of view, these spectacles to demoralise a nation; and that, if the honour-

able and virginal gentleman is going in for the *cultus* of Sancta Pudicitia, he cannot stop at the Serpentine. Meanwhile, thanks to the lily delicacy and patriotic frankness of an English Minister, any very virtuous Medes, Parthians, Elamites, and dwellers in Mesopotamia, know exactly where to go for the most obscene spectacle in the whole Eastern hemisphere. All this need not prevent our adding that Mr. Ayrton is thoroughly right in his decision about the Serpentine question in general.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCE OF WALES will leave for Denmark at the end of this week, and, having joined the Princess, will return with her Royal Highness to this country.

PRINCE ARTHUR arrived at Portsmouth from Quebec, on Tuesday, in the Indian troop-ship *Crocodile*.

THE PRINCE OF WALES, as Duke of Cornwall, has conferred the vicarship of the Stannaries Court on Mr. Herbert Fisher, Keeper of the Privy Seal in his Royal Highness's household. Mr. Fisher was formerly connected with the Western Circuit, and was once private tutor to the Prince. He withdrew from the circuit several years ago.

THE RIGHT HON. JOHN EVELYN DENISON, M.P., Speaker of the House of Commons, has given a donation of £100 to University College Hospital.

THE EARL AND COUNTESS OF DERBY arrived at Knowsley on Wednesday, after their marriage tour. They were warmly and enthusiastically received by their tenants, who, when the carriage arrived near the hall, took the horses from the vehicle and drew its noble occupants into the hall.

THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON HALE is gradually recovering from his late illness.

THE ELECTION FOR BRECON, rendered necessary by the elevation of Lord Hyde to the Peerage, as Earl Clarendon, has resulted in the return of a Conservative. The votes recorded were as follow:—For Mr. Gwynne Holford (L.C.), 372; for Mr. H. Powell Price (L.), 338; majority for Holford, 34.

A SAD AFFAIR has occurred at Norwich. Sir R. J. Harvey, the principal partner in the Crown Bank, of that city, was, on Friday week, found lying in his shrubbery with two pistol bullets in his body. On Saturday the bank suspended business, and on Tuesday Sir Robert died. Unfortunately speculation is said to have unsettled the deceased's mind; hence the suicide.

MR. J. S. MILL is at work on a new edition of his "Logic;" and Miss Helen Taylor is said to be editing the posthumous works of Buckle.

SIR W. TITE, having greatly recovered from his late attack, was to leave town for a few days in the course of the week.

MR. JULIAN GOLDSMID was, on Tuesday, returned for Rochester by a majority of more than 400 over his opponent, Mr. Charles James Fox, an advocate of Reciprocity.

AN ORDER has been received at the postal-telegraph offices that no messages are to be received in cipher for transmission to France.

CORPORAL HUMPHREYS, of the 6th Surrey Rifles, was declared the winner of the Queen's prize at Wimbledon, on Tuesday.

MR. J. C. BROUGH has just been appointed to the librarian's post of the London Institution, an office once held by Forster.

THE SENTENCE OF DEATH lately passed upon William Redhead, for the murder of his stepmother, is to be commuted into one of penal servitude for life.

THE NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION, at Ventnor, has received a donation of £100 from Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, Triton, Twells, and Co., as well as £50 already announced from Mr. Joseph Gurney Barclay.

FOUR OPEN-AIR MEETINGS were held in Hyde Park, on Sunday afternoon, to protest against the Sunday-Trading Bill. There was a good deal of noise and some pocket-picking, but no serious disturbance.

THE TRIAL OF DAVITT AND WILSON for treason-felony was brought to a close on Monday, when the former was sentenced to fifteen and the latter to seven years' penal servitude.

A NOTICE has been issued by the North German Government stating that on the northern coast of Germany orders have been given to take up the seamarks, to withdraw the light-ships, and to extinguish the fixed lights.

THE DEATH is announced, at the age of seventy-seven, of Admiral Sir Charles Burrell, Bart. The deceased Baronet was the third and only surviving son of the late Lieutenant-General Sir Harry Burrell, Bart., Lieutenant-Colonel of the 1st Foot Guards; and was born March 2, 1793. He leaves no male issue, and the title is extinct.

THE INQUEST ON THE BODY OF THE GUARD COMBER, who was killed in the late collision near the Crystal Palace between two of the Brighton Company's trains, was resumed by Mr. W. J. Payne, the Coroner for London and Southwark, on Tuesday afternoon, and the result has been a verdict of manslaughter against James Monk, the driver of the Croydon train.

THE LORDS' AND COMMONS' MATCH took place last Saturday at Wimbledon, at ranges of 200 and 500 yards. The Lords were victorious by ten points. The International Enfield challenge trophy fell to the representatives of England.

A MILITARY COMMISSION AT ST. PETERSBURG is actively engaged in studying some modifications which it is proposed to introduce into knapsacks. A French doctor has laid before the commission a knapsack which, by a simple mechanism, can be brought round to the front and made to serve at the same time as a breastplate for the soldier and a rest for his rifle.

THE DEATH is announced of Mr. John Williams, the editor of the *Cambrian* newspaper, the first newspaper published in Wales, which was started in 1804, and bought by Mr. Williams in 1823. Since that time Mr. Williams has been its managing editor, and was regarded as the father of the newspaper press in Wales. Although eighty-two years of age, his memory and mental powers were as vigorous as ever, and until within a few hours of his death he was engaged in correcting proofs.

SEVERAL ROUGHS were, on Monday, brought up at the Clerkenwell Police Court, on a charge of having violently assaulted the police while conveying to prison some of the Sunday gamblers who carry on their operations in the north of London. The magistrates refused to inflict a fine, and sent each of the defendants to prison for a month, with hard labour.

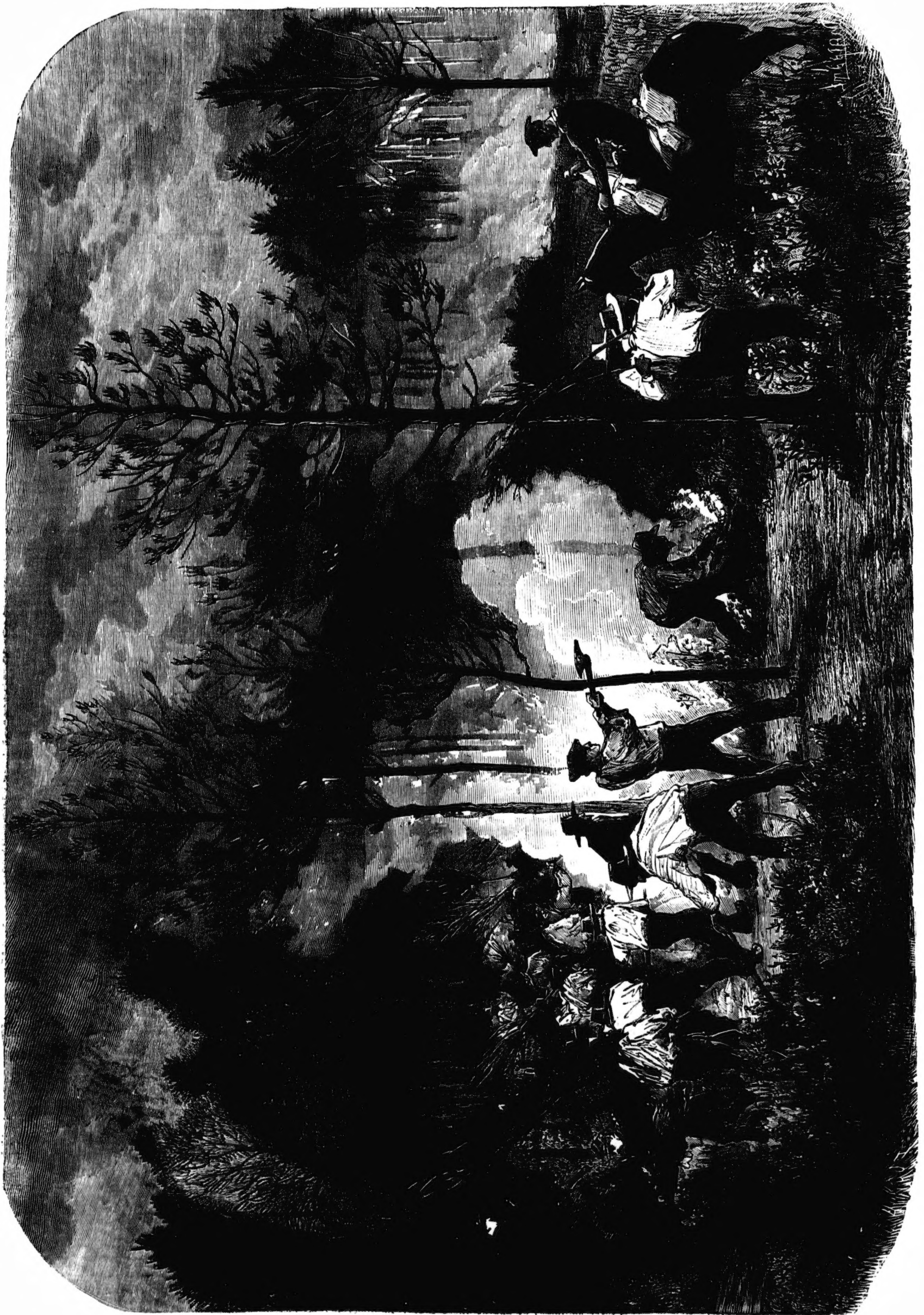
DR. OPPERT, the brother of M. Oppert, of Paris, now assistant librarian at Windsor, and a zealous Orientalist, has been appointed Professor of Sanskrit and superintendent of the Oriental School in the Punjab University. It will be noted that the new arrangements in the extension of collegiate institutions in India will strengthen our Indian Oriental school, and in so far maintain the reputation of our whole linguistic school.

A SHOCKING CASE OF POISONING through the ignorance of a servant girl has occurred at Cradley Heath, in Staffordshire. A little boy in the family where the girl was employed being ill, she resolved, in his mother's absence, to give him a dose of arsenic. Instead of it she gave arsenic, being unable to read the label on the packet. The little boy died. The girl, who took a dose of the poison herself, recovered.

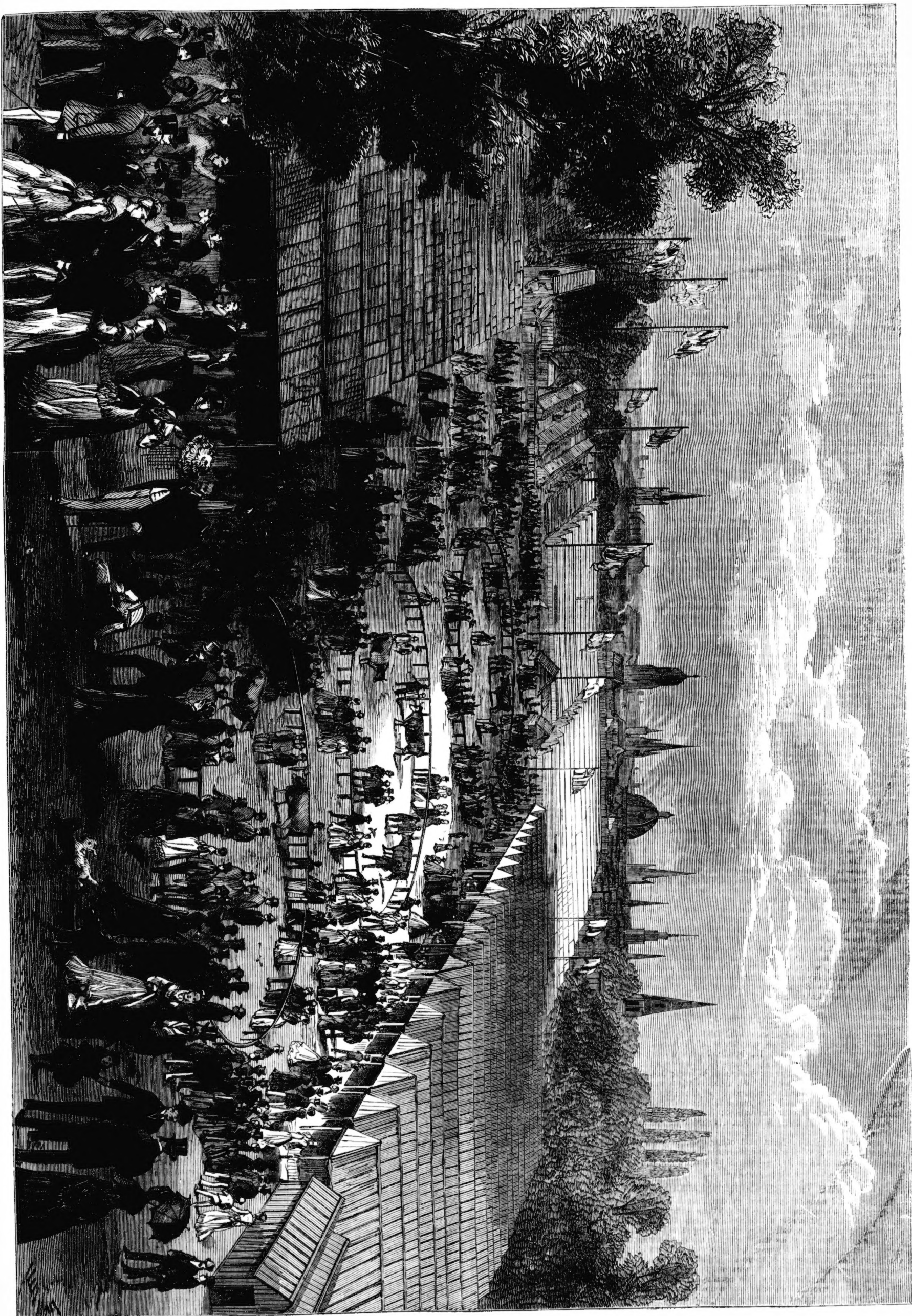
A ROYAL PROCLAMATION, enjoining upon British subjects neutrality in the war between France and Prussia, was agreed to at a Council held by her Majesty at Osborne on Tuesday, and a few hours later it was published in the *London Gazette*. The Foreign Office has issued a series of regulations governing the conduct of the ships-of-war belonging to the belligerent Powers whilst cruising in British waters.

An exceedingly interesting and exciting match at cricket was played out on Tuesday at Lord's between the Gentlemen and Players of England. The Gentlemen obtained in their two innings 274 runs; the players in their first innings 121, leaving 154 to be obtained to win. After a desperate struggle and much excellent play they were disposed of by the Gentlemen for 149, the latter thus winning by four runs. The excitement of the fashionable crowds who were present was tremendous.

THE IRISH AND THE FRENCH.—There was a great demonstration in Dublin, on Tuesday evening, in favour of the French nation. Large crowds, estimated at between 15,000 and 20,000 persons, assembled opposite the French Consular residence, with a tricolour flag draped with orange and green. A large number of bands played Irish national airs. The assembly cheered for France, and shouted "Vive la République!" The bands also played "Partant pour la Syrie!" The police did not get information of the proposed demonstration until about two hours before it was held; but active measures were taken to preserve peace, and upwards of one hundred men, under the command of two superintendents, were present while the demonstration was proceeding, and as the crowd was cheering for "France, the Power of Liberty," the police charged, and succeeded in capturing the tricolour flag, which was, however, retaken by some of the mob. Some of the drums were broken by the police, but no arrests were made. The French Consul did not make his appearance. The crowd was addressed by a person named Smith. The bands subsequently paraded the streets, followed by immense crowds cheering. It is understood the Political Prisoners' Amnesty Association took a leading part in organising the demonstration, as the mob cheered frequently and loudly for O'Donovan Rossa and other Fenian convicts.



FIRES IN THE FRENCH LANDES: CHECKING THE FLAMES.



THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S SHOW AT OXFORD.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY AT OXFORD.

The show of the Royal Agricultural Society of England was opened at Oxford on Monday, July 11, and remains on view till the close of this week.

A generation has passed since the Royal Agricultural Society of England—then styled the English Agricultural Society—has paid a visit to classic Oxford. The association was then in extreme infancy, and it may be interesting to compare the puny statistics of that first public exhibition with the astonishing attainments of its robust manhood. This is the society's thirty-second annual gathering, the Duke of Devonshire being president. The first meeting, in 1838, was held under the presidency of the founder, Earl Spencer. A close of six acres was then sufficient to accommodate all that could be attracted of mechanical novelty and bovine beauty. Only twenty-three implements were exhibited, including a subsoil plough, the invention of Mr. Philip Pusey, and a cultivator, shown by Messrs. Ransome. Neither, it would seem, was sufficiently appreciated. The agriculturists of that day were suspicious of "new-fangled instruments." Of stock there were about 350 entries, in competition for some £750 in prizes. The business of the meeting was got over in two days, the proceedings being wound up with a banquet in the quadrangle of Queen's College. It is recorded that 3874 lb. of butchers' meat were dressed for the gratification of the 2500 guests. Evidently the chronicler of the period regarded this big dinner as the most noteworthy feature of the meeting. Upon the society's books stood then enrolled the names of 1800 members. At the beginning of this year the numbers had swollen to nearly 6000.

The showyard this year is just ten times as large as was required in 1838. It is admirably situated on the highway leading to Blenheim Park, commanding a view of Wytham Woods (skirting the Earl of Abingdon's seat) and the western hills across the Thames valley. Not far off is Godstowe, historically connected with the romance of Fair Rosamond. The approach to the yard is through that pleasant boulevard, St. Giles's, with a stretch of level turnpike-road beyond, the distance to the entrance being about a mile and a half from Carfax, where the four principal streets of Oxford meet. Familiar to visitors to recent shows of the Royal is the triple-towered façade that is now located on the left-hand side of the Woodstock-road, with a wide circular carriage-drive in front. The space within the turnstiles is narrowed by some excavations for brickmaking purposes in the rear. The areas for implements and stock stretch out and widen to the left and right respectively. Curving round the brickyard are stands, 1500 ft. in length, for models, seeds, cheese, &c. On the northern extremity of the yard is a siding, a third of a mile in length, connecting the ground with the Great Western and London and North-Western lines. A comparison of the extent of shedding erected proves that Oxford has a decided lead over Manchester, and the show last year was considered unprecedentedly good. For implements 11,200-ft. run have been provided; for machinery in motion, 1040 ft.; for cattle, sheep, and pigs, 3300 ft.; for horses, 210 ft.; and for refreshments, 1000 ft.: making a total of 19,750 ft. The only falling off is in horses, but 213 boxes being required, instead of 384. There are 406 stands for implements, as compared with 395 at Manchester.

It is the south wing of the yard alone which was opened to the public at nine o'clock on Monday morning week. Across this space stretched forty-six canvas-covered sheds, in two rows, with a broad avenue between. These stands are filled with several thousand specimens of inventive ingenuity, contributed by the most famous manufacturers of agricultural implements in this country, with several foreign productions or native adaptations of, or improvements upon, non-British inventions—for the most part of Transatlantic origin. On each flank of this extensive display of implements and—if the whole truth be told—miscellaneous ironmongery is located a long row of machinery in motion, engines of various horse-power and manifestly of superior finish, driving thrashing-machines, &c., which seem to combine business-like utility with brilliant colouring and the utmost possible elegance of outline. Some lucky visitors to the yard may be pleased to know that "smoking is strictly prohibited"—on the part of the steam-engines; at least, the rule is that only smokeless coal shall be used. Down either avenue of this hissing, whirling machinery, which knows no rest throughout the day, we arrive at the trial-ground, which lies in that part of the inclosure nearest Oxford. Of course, it would occupy too much time and involve too much trouble to try all descriptions of machines each year; and, indeed, it would absorb too much money if all classes were to be provided with prizes. Accordingly, the latter practice of the society has been to divide the machinery into sections, and to test the merits of each class in annual rotation. Thus at this meeting the trials include fixed steam-engines, mills, crushing and cutting machines, dairy utensils, steaming apparatus, &c. About £400 in money and ten silver medals are being competed for.

We have stated that £750 were distributed in prizes when the society met last (and the first year of its existence) in Oxford. On the present occasion nearly £4000 will be allotted in the course of the fortnight, including special prizes offered by the Oxfordshire Agricultural Society, the local committee, and individual donors. The late High Sheriff of the county (Mr. J. Mason, of Eynsham Hall) gives a handsome piece of plate, worth 100 gs., for the best-managed farm in the district bounded by the towns of Reading, Great Marlow, Aylesbury, Buckingham, Banbury, Stow-on-the-Wold, Lechlade, and Wantage. The competition is confined to tenants who farm not less than 200 acres. A second prize has been offered by the society. There are twenty-one competitors. It was suggested at one of the business meetings of the Royal that the two prize-takers ought to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the agricultural public that the highly productive system they have pursued is likewise a paying one.

The sheds containing the live stock were opened to the public on Monday last, when the judges commenced making their awards. On Tuesday a grand floral exhibition was opened, under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society (in conjunction with the Royal Oxford Society), in the grounds of the Ratcliffe Observatory. Every facility was offered during the show for the inspection of the chapels, halls, libraries, picture-galleries, &c., in connection with the University.

The following are the chief officers of the society at this meeting:—President: His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, K.G. Stewards of live stock: Mr. Davis, Mr. Jacob Wilson, and Sir Watkin W. Wynn, Bart., M.P. Stewards of implements: Sir A. K. Macdonald, Bart.; Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson; Mr. C. Wren Hoskyns, M.P.; and Mr. W. J. Edmonds (steward elect). Stewards of finance and showyard receipts: Major-General Viscount Bridport; Colonel Kingscote, M.P.; and Messrs. Davies, Randell, and Torr. Steward of forage: Mr. J. Druce. Steward of the yard: Mr. Brandreth Gibbs. Secretary: Mr. H. M. Jenkins.

Worcester, Magdalen, New, and other colleges were thrown open to the tenants of the respective societies, and refreshments supplied to them in the dining-halls *ad libitum* during the show.

FIRES IN THE FRENCH LANDES.

In the broad monotonous level of the French Landes—those sandy plains where amidst the tremendous stillness shepherds walk propped high aloft on long stilts, or rest by sitting on a three-legged stool, a tall pole representing the leg and their stilt the other two; and as they look far away, watching their flocks, with scarcely a sound to break the vast silence—the heat this summer has been so great that when flames burst out on the pastures it was scarcely matter for any surprise. Even in the spring this country is heated, and now that an almost tropical summer has come the result is to be anticipated. What that result has been our Engravings (taken from sketches by a Special Artist dispatched to the scene) may help to show. Indeed, the burning of the plains near Damazan, at Castillonet, at Casteljaloux, the bourg where there may still be

seen the ruins of the castle of the sires of Albret, is no uncommon occurrence in a dry summer; and the people are generally on the look-out for such a disaster whenever the heat grows more than ordinarily intense. They form outposts to watch for the first signal, and anxiously scan the horizon for the first column of smoke or spire of flame. Bands of ardent workers are ready with pick and spade to form parties such as that represented in one of our Engravings, in order to check the course of the conflagration by digging deep trenches so as to localise its ravages and prevent its spreading to the more thickly-wooded districts; while others pursue a similar plan to that observed on the great American prairies and cut down acres of the long grass. The greatest effort, however, is the *contre-feu*—the plan of beating fire by fire; and this work, the scene of which is represented in the Engraving on page 56, is so tremendous that the heat not only almost makes the skin crackle, but actually singes the clothes on the backs of the men, and the fine pine-wood charcoal and the fumes of the flaming resin that burns to a white heat, blacken the linen shirts of the lookers-on. To clear a space at the edge of a wood which, if it were left to be reached by the advancing fire, would carry on destruction for miles of country; to hew down the resinous branches, collect the touchwood faggots, hack away the dense undergrowth, stack and pile a huge bonfire at the further confines of the clearing, and then, after lighting the pile, advance with branches and boughs of trees and beat the flames before them till they meet the advancing foe, and, with a great whistle, roar, and quiver of fire, finish their destructive work without spreading further;—this is the work of the men who conduct the *contre-feu*, such work as few save glassblowers, iron-puddlers, gas-house labourers, and cooks at London eating-houses can rightly estimate.

This year the heat has been so great that the very soil may be said to have been burning, and many of the people have lost courage. It is said that, in fear of the swiftly-approaching flames—not knowing in what direction they might come—all sorts of absurd precautions have been taken; one family burying the household clothes and linen in a hole dug in the ground, only to find that the ground itself was incandescent, and that the linen was scorched when they went to look for it. Indeed, some of the less courageous have almost thought that the whole country would be consumed; and the worst of it has been that this despairing temper has made matters worse. The gendarmerie at Casteljaloux, however, have behaved admirably, and some of them have greatly distinguished themselves, while their example has served to put spirit into the people and enabled the officers to organise such fatigue parties as those represented in our Illustrations.

THE WORKMEN'S INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.—His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales opened the Workmen's International Exhibition, at the Agricultural Hall, last Saturday afternoon. There was by no means a large attendance of visitors; and, with the exception of the Italian and Indian Courts, there was not a great deal arranged for display. This shortcoming, however, is merely temporary, and will be remedied before the end of the week. In thanking the committee for the address presented to him, his Royal Highness said:—"In imparting to this exhibition an international character, you have sought to extend the range of good which may result from it, and by inviting friendly competition between our workmen and those of foreign nations, not only to afford a wholesome stimulus to both in the exercise of their various callings, but to contribute as far as you can to that kind of intercourse between countries which must in the end prove the principal security for the peace of the world." The exhibition is to be open for 6d. during the day, and for 2d. during the evening.

THE FIRST BATTLE OF THE WAR.—The first battle between French and Prussians which the papers have had to record took place at Liverpool. The circumstances are thus narrated:—"A leading Liverpool merchant has in his employment as clerks four Prussians and three Frenchmen. Shortly before the arrival of the head of the firm, last Saturday morning, an animated discussion was progressing regarding the Continental crisis, and, after some caustic 'chaff' had been interchanged, the Prussians and Frenchmen came to actual fighting. They seized the massive ledger-rulers and other extemporised weapons, and a serious encounter ensued, during which blood flowed freely. The Frenchmen, though outnumbered by their antagonists, were superior in physical strength to the Prussians, whom they forced to take refuge in the private office, the door of which was quickly barricaded, the obstacle to the continuance of the encounter affording time for the interference of those whom the din of battle brought quickly upon the spot. Two of the Prussians received such severe injuries as to require their removal to hospital. [The authenticity of this story is now questioned; indeed, it is declared to be a hoax; but it is worth telling, nevertheless.]

DEPARTURE OF PRUSSIAN FROM LONDON.—An extraordinary and exciting scene occurred last Saturday evening at Charing-cross station, on the departure of the mail-train for the Continent. About thirty Germans left for Berlin to join the army, and were accompanied to the station by nearly a hundred of their countrymen. The leave-taking had to be performed at the gate which leads to the departure platform; but none of the young men's friends left the small space before the gate, where they presented a compact mass, all determined to remain till the train actually departed. The young warriors seated themselves quietly in the carriages, and there was scarcely a word exchanged between any of them; all seemed calmly resolute, like men prepared to perform a patriotic duty. We noticed some men of nearly forty, while there was one youth who could not have been more than seventeen. The majority were between twenty-four and thirty. A few minutes before the time the train was appointed to leave a cheer was raised by the dense mass before the gate. From each window in the train an arm was held out and waved towards the gate, then a new cheer, loud and deep, followed. As the train left the friends at the gate sang "Die Wache am Rhein," and the young men cried "Hurrah!" We questioned several whether they had been recalled by their Government; but they had received no notices as yet, and left of their own accord. The enthusiasm which animated those volunteers is a significant sign, and a strong proof that on the Prussian side devotion and earnestness will not be wanting.—*Observer.*—An official announcement has been made by the Consul-General of the North German Confederation in London, to the effect that all North German subjects in Great Britain and Ireland who are liable to military service are at once to proceed to Germany. On Tuesday the Continental train of the Great Eastern Railway, leaving in the afternoon for Antwerp, via Harwich, carried away a very large number of Germans, principally young men. The travellers made no demonstration.

PRISON-MADE GOODS VERSUS FREE LABOUR.—A numerous deputation of the masters and workmen of the Weavers' Association waited upon the Home Secretary, on Monday afternoon, to call the attention of the Government to the competition of prison-made goods with free labour. The hon. member who introduced the deputation (Mr. Locke) explained that there was a strong feeling against the unfair way in which articles of manufacture, especially cocoa-nut matting, made by prison labour were disposed of in the general market. The goods were sold at such low prices that honest working men in the same trade suffered direct interference and injury. At Wakefield the prison authorities had actually introduced steam-power, and the articles made by it were consequently sold at prices much below the productive cost. An operative (Mr. Adams) engaged in the cocoa-nut matting trade corroborated the general statement by several details. In the course of a conversation Mr. S. Morley, M.P., impressed upon the Home Secretary that what the deputation complained of was, not the existence of prison labour, but the underselling of prison-made goods. Mr. Bruce said he was very glad to learn that. The policy of the Government with respect to prison discipline was that the first portion of a man's imprisonment was intended to act as a deterrent. His labour then was very severe and unproductive. After a while the prisoners were encouraged to labour, not principally for the purpose of reducing their cost, but to give them a chance of earning an honest living after their discharge. Apart from this question, Wakefield had long been considered one of the model prisons in England, and there was no set of visiting justices in the country who had taken more pains in looking after the interests of prisoners, and therefore the interests of the public. If we were to employ these prisoners at all he could not see how it was possible to avoid to some extent competing with somebody. Even when they were employed upon public works at Chatham and Portland they competed with bricklayers and masons. Mr. Morley suggested that some middle course should be devised. Why in Wakefield prison should steam-power be employed? Mr. Bruce rejoined, why should it not? It was not a national institution, and he could not therefore interfere. The Wakefield justices denied the charges brought against them. By accepting a contract from the Dartmouth prison for the supply of boots and shoes to the metropolitan police the ratepayers were saved at least £5000 a year. Mr. Odger and others addressed the Home Secretary, and Colonel Balfour, M.P., said the object of the deputation was to get an inquiry. The Home Secretary suggested that the association should supply him with any authenticated facts they could get bearing upon the subject. Mr. Applegarth produced a mat bought at Coldbath-fields prison for 4s. 6d., which he said could not be in an ordinary shop be purchased for less than 1s. Lord Augustus Harvey, Colonel Parker, Mr. W. Williams, Mr. Torrens, Sergeant Simon, and Mr. T. Hughes were amongst the members of Parliament present.

THE LOUNGER.

The population of Prussia was at the last Census 24,166,847. The strength of the army on the peace footing is as follows:—Officers, 12,924; rank and file, 299,704; horses, 73,307. On the war footing the numbers can be raised to 700,000 men in a fortnight. In the navy there are six ironclads, nine frigates and corvettes, twenty-three gun-boats; without enumerating the smaller craft, we may say that there are 110 vessels, with a total of 7020 horse-power and 539 guns. The revenue of Prussia in 1869 was £25,130,474; the expenditure the same. The debt of Prussia is only £56,426,113; add to this the debt of the annexed provinces, £8,760,255, and the total debt will be £67,161,954. But a large portion of this is railway debt, the interest of which is paid by the earnings of the railways. Deducting the railway debt, the net debt of the kingdom, including the new provinces, is only £37,609,504; or £1 11s. per head of the population. The debt of Great Britain is £749,314,132; or £25 11s. 2d. per head of the population. This information, which must be specially interesting just now, I get from Mr. Martin's "Statesman's Year Book" for 1870. That it is correct we may be assured; for, as Mr. Martin tells us, it is taken from a Government report. Indeed, everything found in Mr. Martin's admirable book is trustworthy. The Prussian debt, considering the wars in which the nation has been engaged in modern times—Frederick the Great's wars, wars of the French revolution, and the late war with Austria—must be deemed astonishingly small; but the economy of Prussia ever since the reign of Frederick William, the father of Frederick the Great, has been proverbial. By-the-way, I may as well tell my readers something about the French army and navy. Her army, on the peace footing, is 404,192 men and 86,368 horses; on the war footing, 757,727 men and 143,238 horses. Her ships of all sorts number 401: horse-power, 92,627; guns, 3045. Her funded debt in 1868 was £553,268,928. Her revenue in 1869 was £85,148,872; her expenditure, £85,133,626. What will her expenditure be in 1870-1? and what will her debt be at the close of this tremendous war? With respect to the revenue and expenditure of France, however, Mr. Martin tells us that the statements are not quite trustworthy.

It is confidently asserted by people who, as the phrase is, "ought to know," that no special newspaper correspondents will be allowed to follow the armies of either of the belligerents. Information, though, we may be sure will come to us, though not so early as we could wish. It will come to us in private letters, if in no other way. Lord Ronald Leveson has gone to the headquarters of the French army, and no doubt he will keep his brother the Duke of Sutherland well posted up. Lord Ronald is Captain of the Sutherlandshire artillery, and doubtless wants to perfect himself in the art of war.

At the House they are daily slaughtering the innocents; members are pairing for the Session; and all signs point to a not very distant prorogation. But there are still some 120 votes of money to be got, and it seems to me that it will be hardly possible to prorogue before Saturday, Aug. 20. It is time this heavy Session came to an end, for if it should last much longer our public men will break down. Mr. Speaker is very shaky; Gladstone is, whilst I write, unwell; and all the Ministers look pale and jaded. And no wonder. In our Parliamentary history there has been no such heavy Session as this; and with our present cumbersome system there is no help for it. Our national business has outgrown our machinery; said machinery is choked up with work; and the work is ever increasing, and will increase. Many a wise head is seething with plans of reform. The best I have heard of is that of allowing Ireland and Scotland to have Parliaments of their own for local matters, and those alone. Such, for example, as that Sheriffs (Scotland) Bill; and the Edinburgh Annuity Tax Abolition Bill, which occupied the House of Commons on Monday night several hours; and also the Glebes Loan (Ireland) Bill, the Party Processions Bill, the Shannon Navigation Bill, and a host of other local measures.

I have always felt convinced, notwithstanding the jeremiads that have been sung so persistently of late years about the inferiority in taste and ingenuity of the British artisan, that he could hold his own against all competitors—if he would but try. He only requires to "make an effort," first to educate his taste, and then to realise his conceptions. Proofs of this are to be found in abundance even on a cursory view of the exhibition now open in the Agricultural Hall at Islington, incomplete as most of the stalls still are; and this, too, even in branches of what I may call art-manufacture, in which British workmen are usually thought to be most deficient. I do not say that there is not room for improvement, for there is scope for very large progress indeed; but there are clear indications that the capacity exists, and only requires to be developed. Take, for instance, the ribbon manufacture, in which Coventry once stood so pre-eminent, but in which, it was supposed, the glory had departed from her—that she had been eclipsed by Lyons, Mulhouse, and other French manufacturing centres. I will be bold to say that more beautiful productions in silk embroidery—all loom-worked, be it remembered—than those of Mr. T. Stevens, of Coventry, are not to be found anywhere. The variety of designs, too, is as infinite as the uses to which the art of silk embroidery, as executed by Mr. Stevens, may be applied is diversified and as the taste displayed is exquisite. I have now before me a few specimens of this gentleman's productions, which have no less pleased than surprised me. Among them is a pattern of a ribbon, which may be seen in course of weaving at the Agricultural Hall, which is simply admirable, both in design and execution. It is a shield—bearing an elaborate coat of arms, in some six or seven colours, blue, red, green, gold, silver, white, &c.—with bars, bends, quarterings, motto, and all as complete as a skillful heraldic painter could limn them, entirely woven in the loom. Then there are splendid book-markers, illustrated with portraits, groups, &c., and richly illuminated; silk-centred valentines (Mr. Kitchell had better look out, or he will be eclipsed); scent sachets; illuminated bands suitable for pulpits, reading desks, altars, family Bibles, &c., with ivory and other mounts; and, most remarkable of all, an immense variety of embroidered jewellery, a new invention, and really very beautiful—and wonderfully cheap to boot. I would particularly direct the attention of ladies to this novel sort of bijouterie, for not one of our fair sisters need go unadorned when adornment is at once so chaste and so inexpensive. A complete suite, consisting of brooch, solitaires, and ear-drops to match, in green, blue, brown, purple, or mourning colours, may be had for 5s. 6d. The prices of other articles correspond. These goods are the production of but one manufacturer—of exceptional enterprise, taste, and ingenuity, perhaps; but there is no reason why others should not do as Mr. Stevens has done. Better this than crying "ruin," and whining over the supposed evils wrought by the French treaty. Let the manufacturers of Coventry, Macclesfield, and other towns remember that Jupiter aids those who, like Mr. Stevens, put their own shoulders to the wheel; and they may excel France yet in ribbon-weaving and other industrial arts. While on this subject, I may mention that the Ladies' Work Society, patronised by the Princess of Wales and conducted by Miss Emily Faithfull, has sent some excellent specimens of lace, wood carving, and oil painting to the International Workmen's Exhibition. The Society for Promoting the Employment of Women exhibits samples of fern printing and law engrossing; and Mrs. Fleet, of Penge, has sent some illuminations which are not to be surpassed for minuteness of detail and delicacy of finish, and will fully sustain the reputation she made by her illumination of the "Te Deum," published in 1868, at the Victoria Press, and dedicated, by permission, to the Queen.

I am glad to learn that Mr. Alderman Waterlow's Improved Industrial Dwellings Company continues to prosper, because it seems to me that it is founded on a thoroughly sound principle—that of making house-building for the industrial classes a purely commercial affair, and thereby benefiting all concerned without degrading any. The company builds houses for the working

cases of a superior description to those usually open to them; for these houses a reasonable rent is paid; there is nothing like a pauperising in the transaction; the tenant gets a comfortable dwelling for his money, fitted with conveniences that are not to be found in the ordinary run of London houses, with a degree of privacy and home-like arrangement unattainable in apartments; while the company-landlords obtain a fair return for the capital invested. Altogether an excellent arrangement for all parties. At a meeting of the company on Tuesday—Sir S. H. Waterlow in the chair—it was decided to recommend the payment of a dividend, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, for the half year to June 30, and to carry forward a balance of £2588, which is equal to a further 4 per cent. on the subscribed capital. The receipts have been £6951 13s. 7d.; and the expenditure, including all contributions to the reserve funds, amounts to £3523 8s. 9d., leaving a balance of £3428 4s. 10d. The net profits have been at the rate of 45 17s. 2d. per cent. No interest has been charged on capital expended on works now in progress, or revenue would have been improved by a sum equal to 15s. 3d. per cent. The report of the directors states that, with one exception, the general position of the company's estates, on which £167,789 has been already expended, must be regarded as highly satisfactory.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER. THE MAGAZINES.

"Malvina," a new story, with an old-fashioned name, by Mr. Sutherland Edwards, opens very pleasantly in the *Gentleman's Magazine*. The same periodical contains the best paper about Dickens that I have yet seen. It is by Blanchard Jerrold; and states, among other things, the rather curious fact that Lady Lovelace (Byron's daughter, Ada) sent for Dickens when in her last illness, and, of course, saw him. Imagine Dickens seated by the lady's couch, giving her a piece of ice in a spoon every now and then to ease her sufferings! What a spectacle! She, the daughter of a great poet, with a most romantic history, herself a woman of science, nursed in her later hours by one of the greatest imaginative writers England ever produced, but with a scientific intelligence that was absolutely nil! "Simon, the Piping Crow," is good; and the whole number is better than usual.

The *Britannia*, apart from its highly-flavoured stories, is chiefly remarkable for the determined manner in which it goes in for making old topics look new. It certainly does this cleverly, and maintains the traditions of a school of writing which might have been supposed to die out with, say, Albert Smith's *Man in the Moon*. A little more optimism would be desirable. You must put lead on your sundials, Mr. Editor. You know the allusion?

The *Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine* and its suckling, the *Young Englishwoman*, aim as zealously as ever at real usefulness, and very cleverly managed they appear to be. But I am disgusted to find that the Yahoo Correspondence, though removed from the magazine proper, is maintained in a supplement. It is something, to be sure, that Yahoo-lovers must now go openly to the Yahoo office if they want to rub noses with the debased creatures; but, after all, the birching of young ladies is not an open question among any but Yahoos; and the maintenance of this abominable wittengamot, like the starting of it, can only be referred to one motive.

The *Children's Hour* is a very pretty little periodical, and appears to succeed—as it deserves to do.

As for the benighted *Good Words* and *Sunday at Home*, what a world of good they must be doing! They are assuredly the most catholic, and certainly among the best managed, of all the periodicals. Most interesting are the "Episodes in an Obscure Life," as I have so often said. Better pictures of the life of the London poor were never drawn; and they have the characteristic which never fails you in the literature of the publishers—religiousness without cant. You never rise from any of their periodicals with a heartache, either; that is, they are always full of hope. The pictures to "Dorothy Fox" are this month capital. But surely the author must see that Josiah was, on the whole, treated with positive rudeness?

The Holiday Number of *London Society* contains a paper, professing to be written by a lady (I only hope it is), about travelling without a maid and without luggage, which is so full of sensible hints that it ought to sell the number. Stay-at-homes, too, may gather useful knowledge from this excellent and admirably-written little sketch. By-the-by, the "solid ink" which the author wants does exist, I think.

The *Food Journal* has improved, and the last two numbers have been quite readable. More than once I have put the question, if the *coca* plant has the wonderfully sustaining properties which are attributed to it (and the testimony is strong), how is it nobody introduces it into this country? When is this question to be answered? Every now and then we are told over again that the *coca* will stimulate and support you in the midst of heavy fatigue, without causing any evil consequences, and that it will enable you to do with a very small amount of food. Then let us all cry "Coca! coca! coca!" as Kant used to cry "Coffee! coffee! coffee!" till we get it. I observe, on looking again, that the editor offers to procure *coca*, if a sufficient number of people will club together to buy a few pounds. But *coca* is 6d. an ounce, and a very little goes a long way. However, the offer is not a bad one. By-the-by, the *Food Journal* is not up in Chancery. The extract which is quoted as referring to the mark, relates to a gentleman farmer, or franklin.

The *Leisure Hour*, among other good matter, contains an article, from a very recognisable pen, upon "Reviewers and Review Books." The author says two things, in which he has justice on his side. One is that, by good rights, an author ought to have the same kind of redress against a false and damaging review of his book as a tradesman would have against a man who falsely described him as selling bad goods, or a physician against, say, a patient who libelled him, as a certain Duchess recently libelled a certain medical man. Under the present system of managing these matters, however, the author's sending his book expressly for review may be construed into an avowal of willingness to abide by any verdict that may be given. Another point (not new) raised by this writer is that of the ugly practice of selling "review-books" immediately at a low price, and so sending them into direct competition with the other copies offered for sale in the regular way. In all respectable journals it is the rule, I believe, that books reviewed are kept three months before being let loose upon the market. Here is one sentence from the paper in question:—"Even books that are deliberately perused are often misrepresented by the critic, and that from simple misapprehension on his part of the writer's drift: a fact, this, which is not patent to every one, but which often turns up, curiously enough, when readers happen to compare a book with the critic's account of it." There is something almost naive about this, considering the really enormous extent to which the evil complained of occurs. It might have been added that reviewers in high-class journals are often guilty of deliberate, intentional misquotation and misrepresentation. Croker and Lockhart were, as critics, forgers and liars more frequently than they were honest men; and the breed is not yet extinct. What may you not expect from people who would out of mere spite do what Macaulay said Croker would do, and had done—joyfully ride a hundred miles outside a coach in frost and snow to prove a man illegitimate or a woman a year or two older than she was supposed to be?

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

A line in a theatrical programme sometimes does more than elaborate or depress an individual accustomed to first nights and reveals of standard works for the stage. It gives him a clue to the managerial policy he cannot, for the life of him, understand at a first glance; and it sometimes supports an idea he may have formed as to the motives of the ruling powers in that or that theatre. What the production of "The School for Scandal" at the Strand could possibly mean, I confess, was a mystery; but I am now enlightened, and, I trust, grateful for the explanation contained in the imposing line "Miss Ada Swanborough as Lady

Tenzle." That Sheridan's comedy was played, or, I should rather say, outraged in this lady's special behalf, is tolerably certain, and that the Strand management has made a grave mistake in burlesquing old comedy is unquestionable. Failure was, in this case, a foregone conclusion, for no one with the faintest perception of things dramatic could have expected to see Mrs. Swanborough's liege men and women emerge from their false position with anything like credit to themselves. The experiment was a bold if not a ruinous one; and the sooner things attain their former level the better it will be for the theatre. Comedy of the highest school is not expected here, and this attempt to give it is one of the weakest on record. Miss Ada Swanborough is quite as much out of her depth as everyone else concerned. She seems to forget that, although bred in the country, Sir Peter's young wife is emphatically a lady. In face of reason and the commonest sense, Miss Swanborough's conception of this character can only be defined as utterly false. It is absolutely painful to see an actor of Mr. E. Terry's class forced into a character he cannot possibly realise. Theatricals of burlesquing will of course show themselves, and serious comment upon such a performance is altogether out of the question. Mr. Walter Joyce played Joseph Surface very much like a mild amateur; and Mr. Harry Crouch was the Charles Surface. Sir Benjamin Backbite was performed by Mr. Barry Wall, an American actor of some capability; and Crabtree was intrusted to Mr. J. Wallace. Miss Eleanor Bufton appeared as Mrs. Candour, Miss Fanny Hughes as Maria, and Miss E. Fowler "consented" to play Lady Sneerwell. For this small favour it is to be hoped the audience felt thankful. In many cases a perfect knowledge of the words did not appear; and in a general sense the performance of this model comedy by the Strand company on Saturday, the 16th, was a kind of thing no one with the slightest taste could wish to see again.

Theatrical seasons follow each other in marvellously quick succession, and the St. James's is another instance of a Sunday only intervening between the end of one term and the beginning of the next. On Saturday night, the 16th, Mrs. John Wood took leave of the aristocratic theatre in Clubland and wandered eastward into fragrant Shoreditch. Simultaneously with her appearing on Monday at the Standard—the huge theatre of the Douglas—Mr. J. Clarke hoped he didn't intrude, as Paul Pry, at the St. James's. I have seen many bad houses, but very few so bad as that of Tuesday; and it has also been my good or ill luck to see many Paul Pry's. Liston, whose face must have been his fortune, like the maiden in the song, is a memory with some playgoers; but the younger generation can remember Edward Wright. By his standard any Paul Pry of the present day must consent to be measured, and the nearer he approaches it the better for himself and the public, who have waited long, only to be disappointed often. As a creation in the domain of eccentric comedy, Paul Pry may almost be said to stand alone. It is one of the most complete characters in the entire range of the drama, and, from first to last, one of the most consistent. There is no repose about this genius of inquisitiveness; he is a principle in himself, and, although an impossibility, as some matter-of-fact people might argue, he is one of the most amusing of all the drolls identified with the English stage. Every new-comer in the character has to sustain a heavier responsibility than his predecessor, and it does not often happen that one popular actor immediately succeeds another in the same part and in the same theatre. I cannot see that Paul Pry is Mr. J. Clarke's most artistic personation, but it is eminently satisfactory in one very important particular. Mr. J. Clarke plays the part quietly, if I may use the term, and most wisely avoids exaggeration. All the traditional points are made; but, at the same time, there is a refreshing amount of independence about the performance. The scene at the inn with Frank Hardy is capitally acted. Miss Hughes, a bright and vivacious Phoebe, succeeds Mrs. John Wood; Miss Stafford makes her first appearance here as Marian; and Mr. Voltaire is certainly one of the very best Withertons I have ever seen. "The Bonnie Fishwife," with Mr. J. Clarke as Gaiters, and Miss Hughes as Miss Thistle-down, has followed the comedy; and "An Unhappy Pair" has preceded it.

Some persons are never tired of asserting that five-act plays have had their day. Time will show whether the "tragic-historical" interest can be revived, but, at any rate, it never will be assisted by such "weak inventions" as "Helen Douglas" produced at the Haymarket last Monday night. To see such a play as this and such an actress as Miss J. Evelyn at the same time is almost enough to make the public rise as one man, woman, and child, and thunder forth in grand chorus "Who and what next, in the name of patience?" There is no novelty of plot in this piece, but that might be forgiven if something like poetic feeling made itself manifest in the dialogue. "Helen Douglas" is entirely innocent of anything but commonplace, and it is not easy to understand what purpose can be served by the production of such a play. If this enterprise was undertaken on Miss Evelyn's account, I can but think it a great mistake, for in such a character as Helen Douglas her failure was not a probability, but a positive certainty. The principal among the men is Robert Douglas (Mr. E. Arnott), a Macbeth over again (for bad conduct only). James Ruthven (Mr. C. Vere), is killed in the first act. This is a merciful dispensation. Lord Gordon, a mysterious emissary from a mysterious King, and little more than a lay figure, is played by Mr. Cowdery. Mr. Charles Sennett appears as Hector, an aged and demented Scotch blacksmith; Mr. Kelly as Geronimo, a nondescript Italian; Mr. H. Mellon as Father Clement, a priest; and Miss A. Daubeny as David, a very juvenile Douglas. Mr. A. Wood and Miss A. Goodall perform Archibald and Marion, two "serio-comic" servants. There are some things so perfect that criticism is disarmed; there are others that fairly invite it; and there are certain plays and performances supreme in their worthiness, and absolutely beneath notice. To which class Helen Douglas, in the double sense, belongs there can be no doubt whatever. Mr. Arnott's Robert Douglas is infinitely better than his Claude Melnotte, and his Singleton Unit, in "Rural Felicity," seems to indicate that he is, after all, a light comedian.

At the POLYTECHNIC, besides the other entertainments, Professor Pepper is now engaged in explaining how all the ghost effects are produced. The Professor makes a clean breast of the delusions, and leaves no mystery whatever behind.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—About this time of year excursions of benefit societies, trams, and other large bodies to the palace take place almost daily. To provide a variety of amusements for this continual influx of visitors, the resources of the establishment are taxed to the utmost. On Monday next a grand display of fireworks and special illumination of fountains will be given without increasing the ordinary admission charge of one shilling. The great Egyptian salute, as fired on the 7th inst., the catarract of fire, and other important features of the recent grand display, will be repeated, notwithstanding their vast extent and consequent cost. Always ready to take advantage of everything likely to prove of interest to the thousands who visit the palace, now that war has unfortunately commenced on the Continent, the opportunity has been seized for putting forward proposals for the formation of a court or special exhibition of the matériel of war. The exhibition, which is intended to be of considerable extent, will include special illustrations of the seat of war, photographs of the commanders and statesmen, models of bridges over the rivers, the military arms of the contending countries, chapeaux, needle-guns, and other engines of war. Also the general equipments of European regiments, armour-plates, the latest improvements in rifles, hospital appliances, and other objects illustrating not only "the pomp and circumstance of glorious war" but the horrible features atendant upon such sanguinary encounters as may be shortly expected, and which are so little considered by those who are too ready to plunge their country into war. The exhibition will open as early as can be arranged, and will remain open during the war. Special telegrams from the seat of war, photographs of the scenes of the encounters, large maps showing the movements of the troops, &c., will add considerably to the interest of the exhibition. The operas in English, which during July have been very successful, will be continued during August and September, when, in addition to the works already produced this season, the following operas will be introduced:—"Masetto," "The Barber of Seville," "The Elisir of Love," Gounod's "Pet Dove," and "Fra Diavolo." The principal popular gatherings in August will be those of the Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows on the 1st, the Foresters on the 16th, and the National Temperance League on the 21st. The grounds never looked more beautiful.

SOME OF NAPOLEON'S LIEUTENANTS.

It is now definitely announced that the Emperor of the French will assume the supreme command of the army of Germany, as he did of the army of the Alps in 1859, and as the King of Prussia did that of his army during the Seven Weeks' War. Among the officers who will hold high command under the Emperor, the most distinguished is undoubtedly

Marshal M'Mahon, Duke of Magenta. This eminent soldier, whose name proclaims his descent from a warlike race, is in the sixty-third year of his age. He received his military education at Saint-Cyr, from which he passed to the Staff Corps. He took part in the expedition to Algiers, and was subsequently Aide-de-Camp of General Achard at the siege of Antwerp. In 1833 he returned to Africa, and rose rapidly in his profession, until, in 1852, he became General of Division. In 1855 he commanded an infantry division in Marshal Bosquet's corps in the Crimea. In this capacity he took a personal part in the famous and successful assault of the Malakoff, establishing himself in that work, and holding it, notwithstanding the repeated and prolonged efforts of the Russians to dislodge him. For this service he was decorated with the grand cross of the Legion of Honour, and on the return of peace was made a Senator. In 1857 he was again in Africa, commanding an expedition against the Kabyles, and was afterwards appointed commander-in-chief of the sea and land forces in Algeria. It was, however, the Italian war which first placed his name prominently before the European public. With the designation of commander of the second army corps, but really by the side of the Emperor, he rendered at the great, and for a time very dubious, battle of Magenta services so important that he was named by his Sovereign, and on the field of battle, Duke of Magenta, and Marshal of France. He has now been recalled from the Governor-Generalship of Algeria, to which he was appointed in 1864, to take a command in this war. The Duke of Magenta is represented as combining rapidity of judgment with calmness of temper and firmness of purpose in a remarkable degree. He has never been considered a personal favourite of the Emperor, who, nevertheless, highly appreciates his ability and character. It may be interesting to recall the fact that he was the officer chosen to represent France at the coronation of the present King of Prussia in 1861.

The fame of Marshal Bazaine, who has already taken command of his corps-d'armée, is of more recent origin, and dates from the Mexican war, of which he has himself written a history. He is descended from an old military family, and was born in 1811. He was educated at the Ecole Polytechnique, and in his twenty-first year proceeded to Africa, for so many years the great French school of war. Six years afterwards he joined the Foreign Legion, and went through two campaigns in Spain against the Carlists. Returning to Africa, he had obtained by 1850 the command of a regiment of the Foreign Legion, and at the outbreak of the Crimean War was appointed to command a brigade of that corps. His name is mentioned several times as that of a skilful and brave officer in the despatches of Marshals Canrobert and Pelissier, and in 1855 he was made General of Division. He subsequently commanded the French expedition against Kinburn. When, in 1862, while the civil war in America was raging, the Emperor of the French determined to prosecute his designs upon Mexico, General Bazaine received the command of the first division of infantry in General Forey's expedition. In October of the following year Forey was recalled, and Bazaine advanced to the chief command. In July, 1863, he led his army into the city of Mexico, and commenced a series of vigorous operations in order to expel President Juarez, whom he drove to the frontier of the Republic, and whom he apparently believed he had expelled. This, at least, is the only assumption on which a number of executions of duly commissioned officers of the Republic, who had been taken prisoners in regular war, can be explained. This return to practices worthy of a semi-savage Hispano-American settlement than of the magnanimous French people was the more regrettable inasmuch as it was afterwards made the excuse for the execution of the unhappy Maximilian, whose death was said to be a just reprisal for similar murders committed under the French occupation in his name. General Bazaine did not keep up a good understanding with the Emperor Maximilian, who at length avoided him to follow a course dictated by a sentiment of personal honour. The tragical end of the enterprise is known. The French marched for Vera Cruz after Bazaine, who had received the rank of Marshal, had called the Mexican notables together, and told them that it was impossible to maintain the Empire, and that the war against Juarez was without object and without hope. His conduct was severely criticised, on his return, in French journals; but the Emperor has consistently protected him. His services in Mexico have been rewarded with the rank and emoluments of a senator and the command of the Third Army Corps.

Marshal Canrobert is well known to many English officers as a good comrade during the Russian War. He was born, in 1809, of a good Breton family. Like M'Mahon, he was educated at St. Cyr, and won his successive steps of promotion by hard fighting in Algeria, was wounded in the assault of Constantine, and, fulfilling the prediction of Colonel Combes, who fell at his side, that "there was a future for that young man," had subsequently the good fortune to be incessantly engaged in the arduous operations of the next few years. Having thus, by the year 1847, won the rank of Colonel, he commanded the expeditions Ahmed-Sghir against the Kabyles and the tribes of Jurjura, and raised the blockade of Bonsada. Having returned to France in 1850, he soon became known as one of the officers who had identified himself with the cause of the Prince President, who took him for his aide-de-camp, made him a general of brigade, and gave him a command at Paris, in which he displayed great energy in suppressing the attempt at insurrection which followed the Coup-d'Etat. In 1853 he was made General of Division. When the Crimean War broke out he was appointed to command the first division of the army of the East, which, it will be remembered, suffered very severely from cholera in the Dobrukscha. At the battle of the Alma, he was wounded, but not severely, in the arm. Two days afterwards, Marshal St. Arnaud, suffering from a mortal sickness, following the previous directions of the Emperor, transferred to him the chief command. The position had become difficult, but Canrobert faced it with patience and perseverance. In the end, however, a disagreement with Lord Raglan about the conduct of the war led Canrobert to resign his command to Marshal Pelissier and to return to his first corps. Two months afterwards he left the Crimea, and in 1856 was made a Marshal of France. In the Italian war he commanded the third corps of the army of the Alps, and distinguished himself at Magenta by his personal valour, and at Solferino by the timeliness with which he countervailed an Austrian movement which threatened to place the army in peril.

A MAN NAMED ARMSTRONG offered a stolen saddle for sale at the shop of a saddler named Turnbull, in Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Monday morning. A policeman was sent for, upon which Armstrong drew a revolver and fired upon Turnbull, but, missing his aim, the bullet struck the policeman. The would-be assassin is in custody.

A NEW LIFE-BOAT.—Lady Bouchier has presented to the National Life-boat Institution a fine life-boat, thoroughly equipped in every way, including transporting carriage, to be stationed at Chapel, on the coast of Lincolnshire, about midway between the Sutton and Skegness life-boat establishments of the institution. The new boat possesses in perfection the usual characteristics of the society's life-boats in respect of stability, self-righting, and self-ejecting of water shipped. Like many of the life-boats of the institution, this is a memorial boat, as will be shown by the following inscription, which has been engraved on a brass tablet to be permanently attached to the life-boat house:—"As a memorial to Captain Sir Thomas Bouchier, K.C.B., an officer of the highest character and the warm and true friend of sailors, Jane Bouchier, his widow, daughter of Admiral Sir Edward Codrington, has given this life-boat in hope that by God's blessing on the efforts of a brave crew it may help them to save many shipwrecked sailors."



PRINCE LEOPOLD OF HOHENZOLLERN-SIGMARINGEN.



SOIREE GIVEN TO THE CHINESE EMBASSY BY M. OLOZAGO, SPANISH MINISTER IN PARIS.



THE BELVEDERE PALACE, WEIMAR.

THE CHATEAU BELVEDERE AT WEIMAR.

It may be doubtful whether the plain, formal building, with its queer steeple; its dome-covered wing; its stiff, horticultural decorations, relieved by the suggestion of deep and chequered shadows in the leafy alleys beyond, would attract much attention to our Engraving but for the historical associations henceforward to be attached to it because of its having been the residence of Royal guests, who, as visitors to the glorious and beautiful locality which,

though it is but a grand duchy, has long held a royal reputation in the republic of letters.

For it was at Weimar that some of the greatest men in that republic lived, and worked, and died. It was here that Wieland resided as tutor to the son of the Dowager Duchess of Saxony. It was here that Herder died, and the visitor is directed to his house, which, like that of Schiller, has been bought by the town, and reverently preserved with all the

latest mementos of the great man still within it, as a gentle tribute to his memory. The house of Goethe, too, has long been a resort for pilgrims, who like to see the last earthly dwelling-place of a king among men; but, alas! this is said to have been recently closed to sightseers by a local exclusionist who has completely shut the door in the face of the public and barricaded the place. However, Goethe may be said still to live at Weimar, for the town is full of him, and also of the other lofty souls whom the people



THE POPE'S ALMONER RELIEVING THE POOR ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMENCEMENT OF HIS PONTIFICATE.

there delighted to honour. Even in the Grand Ducal palace, the stiff old-fashioned building of our Engraving, there is a saloon devoted to the memory of these literary princes—Goethe, Herder, Schiller, Wieland; and the statue of Goethe dominates the scene in the Temples' Pavilion in the Schloss Park, not more than a few hundred steps from the summer-house in which he lived, a beautiful villa, with a great reputation as the birthplace of great works, and close to the grand ducal residence of Belvedere, where he could readily go to pay his respects to the Prince. As we have before said, these historical associations make the quaint old palace remarkable; but in itself it possesses accessories that are charming in their way—beautiful greenhouses, a pretty little park, and all the completeness that should distinguish a ducal residence liable to become a Royal retreat when crowned heads pay pleasant visits at state.

PRINCE LEOPOLD OF HOHENZOLLERN-SIGMARINGEN.

THE gentleman whose name has been so prominently before the public for the last fortnight, and whose candidature for the crown of Spain has formed a pretext for the war about to be entered upon between France and Prussia, but who may now be said to have completely disappeared from the scene, is the eldest son of Prince Antoine of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, a collateral branch of the Royal House of Prussia. He bears the names of Leopold Stephen Charles Antoine Gustavus Edward Thassilo, and was born Sept. 22, 1835. He is a lieutenant in the 1st Regiment of Prussian Guards, and is connected by marriage with the reigning houses of Belgium and Portugal. Some particulars touching the negotiations for his election to the Spanish Crown, and of his relationship to the Bonapartes, Murats, &c., were given in our last Number. It may probably be said with safety that the Prince will be heard of no more in connection with the Spanish succession; that after having been the ostensible occasion of kindling the flames of war in Europe, Prince Leopold will subside into the respectable obscurity of German Princehood.

RECEPTION OF THE CHINESE EMBASSY BY THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR AT PARIS.

ONCE more the Chinese Embassy (of which we are continually hearing that it has turned up at some fresh place) is in Paris, at the Hôtel Vouillemot; and if they have desired to see how a great European nation prepares for war, in order that they may enlighten their countrymen on their return, they will now, unfortunately, have the opportunity of making observations. Their mission seems to be long in fulfilment, and the death of Mr. Burlingame has not concluded it. They have visited America, England, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Prussia, Russia, Belgium, and Italy, and now that they have been received by M. Olzagaz, they may make arrangements for a visit to Spain, though it may be difficult to insure them certain travelling in any other direction. Their mission is, however, a thoroughly pacific one—more commercial than political, and likely to lead rather to treaties of commerce than military conventions.

The principal personages of the Embassy are still the first Minister, Tchê-Kang, and the second Minister, Saunne-Kia-Kong, who have had numerous conferences with French statesmen. Their suite consists of Mr. Brown, Attaché to the English Embassy at Peking, and the first secretary to the Ambassadors; M. Emile de Champs, the second secretary, a young Frenchman, one of the European functionaries, holding a high official position in China; three Attachés to the Embassy—Foung-Yih, the English interpreter; Quoué-Ioung, Russian interpreter; Lieng-Fany, French interpreter; a Chinese corresponding secretary; and Doctor Tso-Tzoung-Hao, physician to their Highnesses, who makes his medicines from infusions of herbs brought from the Celestial Empire. This distinguished party was received with true Castilian grace and hospitality by M. Olzagaz, at his hotel on the Quai d'Orsay; and, as a certain means of affording delightful amusement to the guests, it was arranged that the evening should be principally devoted to music. The principal attraction was the first appearance of a youthful violinist, from Havannah, Master Raphael Albertini Uriaste, who is only twelve years of age, but whose marvellous execution and perfect mastery of the instrument place him in the front rank of modern players.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE PONTIFICATE OF PIUS IX.

ON June 16, 1846, Cardinal Giovanni Mastai Ferretti was elected Pope, and assumed the tiara under the title of Pius the Ninth. The twenty-fifth anniversary of his Pontificate consequently fell upon the 16th ult., but was not officially celebrated till the 21st. On that day a variety of commemorative services took place. His Holiness gave public thanks in the churches; and, in accordance with custom, a distribution of silver pieces, value five sous each, was made at the Vatican, by the Almoner of La Santeti, among the poor of the city. The scene is portrayed in our Engraving.

MUSIC.

THE series of "benefits" at Covent Garden has closed, and to-night brings with it the end of the season. We may take a retrospect of the work done, but not now; the last few performances supplying matter enough for such space as we can afford. With regard to the "benefits," however, there is not much to be said, after duly noting how each of the four prime donne was received, applauded, and "ovated" (as our Yankee cousins would observe) by her numerous friends. Madame Lucca led off on Thursday week, playing Zerlina in "Don Giovanni," and doing so after a fashion which by no means added to her reputation. We lay little stress upon the obvious remark that Zerlina was made to appear as a bold and forward flirt, it being of more consequence to protest against singing that violated every canon of good taste. Madame Lucca ought to know—and if she does not know she ought to be told—that English amateurs are perfectly well aware how "Batti, batti," and "Vedrai carino" should be rendered. An indiscriminate public may applaud everything a prima donna chooses to do; but some things make the judicious grieve, among them being such a performance as Madame Lucca's. The other characters in Mozart's chef-d'œuvre were sustained as usual, and need not detain us. Mdlle. Titiens had her benefit on Monday, when "Lucrezia Borgia" was played, to a thin house. We do not hold Madame Titiens responsible for a slack attendance, but rather the choice of an opera so hackneyed and effete as that of Donizetti. Our great dramatic soprano ought to have appeared in one of the parts, such as Leonora, which gives her music worthy of her powers. Why, we may pertinently ask, was Beethoven's matchless opera put aside in favour of "Lucrezia Borgia"? It is needless to say that Mdlle. Titiens produced all her customary effect, and that she was followed through her performance by marks of genuine and hearty approval. Signor Graziani, as the Duke; Signor Naudin, as Gennaro; and Mdlle. Scalchi, as Maffio Orsini, did excellent service, and each obtained a due share of recognition. The evening was eked by two acts of "Masaniello," the change to Auber's delightful music being as welcome as would have been a refreshing breeze to the heated audience. According to announcement, Meyerbeer's "L'Etoile du Nord" was produced on Tuesday, with Madame Patti as Caterina, Signor Cotogni as Pietro, and Signor Naudin as Danilowitz. The performance, taken as a whole, was not first class; but there were features in it of special excellence, among these being Madame Patti's Caterina. Throughout the first two acts the popular little Marquise sang delightfully; but it was reserved for act III. to bring out all her power, and to rouse the audience from a placid contemplation of the *mise-en-scène*. Here she filled the stage as completely as she does in the third act of "Lucia," or the first act of "La Sonnambula;" and the applause when the curtain fell indicated a genuine triumph.

There were some good points in Signor Cotogni's Pietro, notably his singing of "O lieti di" (encored); and Signor Naudin was careful and intelligent, as usual, in the rôle of the pastrycook. The other characters may be dismissed with faint praise; but the *mise-en-scène* was a striking example of effective management, and fairly earned for Mr. Harris the "call" awarded him. On Thursday Madame Patti took her benefit, appearing as Marguerite, in "Faust," and on Friday Mdlle. Sessi brought the series of compliments to an end by playing Gilda in "Rigoletto." To-night "L'Etoile du Nord" is to be repeated.

There is very little to remark upon in recent doings at Drury Lane, nothing new or uncommon being attempted. Mdlle. Nilsson has played Desdemona and Mignon alternately, and on Thursday she appeared as Alice in "Robert le Diable." These performances, with others by Mdlle. Ilma di Murska, have kept the house open in a very satisfactory manner; and to-night the production of Wagner's "Fliegende Holländer" will help to wind up the season in good style. Wednesday's morning performance proved thoroughly successful. The opera was "Faust," with Mdlle. Nilsson as Marguerite, Madame Trebelli as Siebel, Mr. Santley as Valentine, M. Faure as Mephisto, and a new tenor, Signor Perotti, as the hero. Such a cast may well attract the crowd it did; and there was not a vacant seat in the theatre outside the always vacant Royal box. The new tenor made a favourable impression by a good appearance, and by singing which was meritorious above the average. It need hardly be said that the general performance was excellent in quality, and gave entire satisfaction.

The concert season is virtually over, and we have little or nothing to record. To-day the students of the Royal Academy of Music give their annual entertainment in the Hanover-square Rooms, and will, no doubt, attract a large audience of those interested. The occasion will be further marked by the presentation of such prizes as have been awarded during the year; and we hope that the result will encourage all who are disposed to lend a helping hand to the only school of music we possess worthy of the name.

FOREIGN-OFFICE PASSPORTS.

THE following notice has been issued from the Foreign Office:—War having been announced between France and Prussia, British subjects proceeding to any part of the Continent are recommended to provide themselves with passports before setting out on their journey, and to have them duly *visé* for the countries they propose to visit. The following are the regulations under which passports are issued by the Foreign Office:—1. Applications for Foreign-Office passports must be made in writing, and inclosed in a cover, addressed to "The Chief Clerk, Foreign Office, London," with the word "passport" conspicuously written on the cover. 2. The charge on the issue of a passport, whatever number of persons may be named in it, is 2s.; and if it is desired that the passport should be sent by post, that sum must be forwarded, with the application for the passport, by a post-office order, made payable at the post office, Charing-cross, London, to the chief clerk of the Foreign Office, Mr. Francis B. Alston. Postage-stamps will not be received in payment. 3. Foreign-Office passports are granted only to British-born subjects, or to such foreigners as have become naturalised either by Act of Parliament or by a certificate of naturalisation granted by the Secretary of State for the Home Department. When the party is a "naturalised British subject" he will be so designated in his passport; and if his certificate of naturalisation be dated subsequently to Aug. 24, 1850, and previously to Aug. 1, 1858, his passport will be marked as good for one year only; or, should the certificate be dated subsequently to Aug. 1, 1858, his passport will in that case be marked as good for six months only, except in cases where a license for a longer period of residence abroad has been granted by the Secretary of State for the Home Department; but this regulation will not preclude any person whom it affects from obtaining at the Foreign Office, at any future time, on his producing his old passport, a fresh passport in exchange for it for a further limited period, without being required to pay a fresh charge. 4. Foreign-Office passports granted to a British-born subject or to a "Naturalised British subject" who has been naturalised by Act of Parliament, or whose certificate of naturalisation is dated previously to Aug. 24, 1850, is not limited in point of time, but is available for any time or for any number of journeys to the Continent. 5. Passports are granted to all persons either known to the Secretary of State or recommended to him by some person who is known to him; or upon the application of any banking firm established in London or in any part of the United Kingdom; or upon the production of a certificate of identity signed by any mayor, magistrate, justice of the peace, minister of religion, physician, surgeon, solicitor, or notary resident in the United Kingdom. 6. If the applicant for a passport be a naturalised British subject, his certificate of naturalisation, with his signature subscribed to the oath printed on the third page, must be forwarded to the Foreign Office with the certificate of identity granted on his behalf; and his certificate of naturalisation will be returned with the passport to the person who may have granted the certificate of identity, in order that he may cause such naturalised British subject to sign the passport in his presence. The agents at the outposts are not authorised to grant passports to naturalised British subjects, and such persons, if resident in London or in the suburbs, should apply personally for their passports at the Foreign Office. 7. A passport cannot be sent by the Foreign Office, or by an agent at an outpost, to a person already abroad; such person, being a British-born subject, should apply for one to the nearest British mission or consulate. A passport cannot be issued abroad to a naturalised British subject except for a direct journey to England, or, in the case of a colonial naturalised subject, for a journey back to the colony where he has been naturalised. Neither can a passport granted at the Foreign Office to a naturalised British subject for a limited period be renewed by her Majesty's diplomatic or consular agents in foreign countries, but only at the Foreign Office. 8. The bearer of every passport granted by the Foreign Office should sign his passport as soon as he receives it; without such signature either the *visa* may be refused or the validity of the passport questioned abroad.

GENERAL CHANGARNIER.—Many of the Paris papers having stated that General Changarnier had tendered his services during the pending war, and that a command was to be intrusted to him, that gallant General has sent the following letter to the principal journals:—"Many papers have announced that General Changarnier had solicited the honour of serving in the war about to commence. They were rightly informed. I have besought and entreated Marshal Leboeuf, the Minister of War, to give me a command. Although received by the Minister with demonstrations of the warmest sympathy, my request has definitively been rejected. It is to me a deep sorrow, which I must endure in my country home. But our valiant army has so many able and experienced chiefs that the absence of an old patriot will not be felt by it. Our soldiers, our dear soldiers, will be everywhere victors."

THE PRUSSIAN LINE OF DEFENCE.—Prussia, as the representative of the North German Confederation, possesses nine fortresses of the first rank. Upon the Rhine she has Mayence, Coblenz, and Cologne; on the Elbe, Königstein and Magdeburg; also, Stettin, on the Oder; Posen, on the Warta; Danzig, at the mouth of the Vistula; and Königsberg, on the Pregel. All these fortresses are upon Prussian territory, except Mayence, in Hesse, and Königstein, in Saxony. The fortresses of the second order are Sarrelouis, Wesel, Minden, Erfurt, Torgau, Spandau, Glogau, Glatz, Neisse, Düppel, Kiel, Stralsund, and Colberg. The fortified places of the third rank are Wittenburg, Kœnig, Kustrin, Graudenz, Swinemünde, and Pillau. There are also other fortified points, such as the earthworks round Dresden, the bridges of Düsseldorf, Marienburg, and Dirschau, the mouths of the Weser and the Elbe, and the port of Memel.

IRRIGATION.

MR. CHARLES RINTOUL, an extensive farmer of Kingston, North Berwick, writes as follows on the subject of irrigation:—"The value of artificial manure applied yearly within the United Kingdom is variously estimated at from ten to twelve millions sterling. In my own district, the south-eastern portion of Scotland, I have good reason to know that the expenditure does not fall short of three-quarters of a million. Or, to take my own case, and that only in respect to one article, I have this year upon my two farms 200 acres under potatoes, to which I have applied manure to the extent of £20 per acre, or £4000 in all. Artificial manure will not of itself give a crop; heat will not give a crop; but a combination of manure, heat, and moisture will give results of which as yet we have no conception. The difficulty has been to obtain moisture along with heat, and the experience of the last three seasons has convinced farmers that 'something must be done.'"

"The landlords of the country—I speak from experience so far as Scotland is concerned—have done a great deal to make capital available for drainage, and the science of agriculture has been much advanced in consequence. What we farmers now want is that proprietors should give the same facilities to have capital made available for irrigation purposes in connection with our river system, where it can be shown that irrigation in this form could be made a permanent lands' improvement."

"The time has now come when this can be done, not as a process antagonistic to drainage, not merely for land lying low or level, or naturally moist, but with the greatest benefit on that land which has been already best drained, or where naturally no drainage works are required."

"From the extent to which manure is used on my farms, I am keenly alive to the risks of a 'bad year.' A month lost through a backward season means the entire sacrifice of the manure sunk in the ground on early potatoes, which I cultivate to a large extent. Even a week gained in bringing them to market would nearly double the price I obtain for my first crop. To remove all this risk and uncertainty, I am at present making arrangements for introducing on a farm of 200 acres an invention which I believe to provide the exact remedy required."

"This invention is not one of irrigation in the ordinary sense—namely, the cultivation of land by water alone as the source of fertility, and on land specially prepared by levelling or cutting for the distribution of the water, hence limiting the area of its application. The fault of all systems of irrigation has been the over-saturation of the soil or the unequal distribution of the water. By this new plan, invented by Mr. Brown, of Edinburgh, and the experiments on which I have watched with great interest, water is applied in the natural form of rain-showers, and only in sufficient quantity to supply the loss by evaporation. It entails none of the labour accompanying the use of the hose and pipe, and the physical conformation of the land does not hinder its application. The apparatus once laid down, as much as 1000 acres of land could be watered by it each night at a first expense for engine and pumps not exceeding £500, and requiring only the work of two men—an engineman and a person to turn the taps; and, compared with other systems, the quantity of water required to supply 1000 gallons per acre in the form of fine rain would be small. The system has been proved for the cultivation of grass and hay, and pasture land, over a period of six months. In the driest seasons it has been shown that, paying interest on capital, rent of land, manure, and labour, grass can be produced at 5s. a ton, and hay at £1, the weight produced being forty tons of grass, or equivalent to about seven tons of hay. On Mr. Hutchison's farm, near Kirkcaldy, where the system is in use on pasture land, it is seen that an unfailing growth of the best description of pasture can be maintained throughout the driest period; in fact, the drier the weather the better the growth, owing to the moisture being maintained."

"It is not my purpose to describe the details of the system. These can be easily ascertained; but I think the vast numbers of agriculturists and others now assembled at the Royal show should learn that a remedy for the present water-famine exists, and is beginning to commend itself to the practical agriculturists of Scotland."

A MEETING of the general committee of the Derby Memorial Statue Fund was held, on Tuesday, at the Carlton Club—the Earl of Harrowby in the chair. It was decided that Mr. Matthew Noble should be intrusted with the commission for executing a statue, and that Sir John Pakington, chairman of the sub-committee, should communicate with Mr. Ayrton, so as to secure a suitable site.

DICKENS'S WILL.—The text of Charles Dickens's will has been published. It was executed May 12, 1859, and there is a codicil dated June 2, in the present year. The personality is sworn under £280,000. The principal bequests are £1000 to Miss Ellen Lawless Ternan; £1000 to his daughter Mary, and whilst she remains unmarried an annuity of £300; £8000 to his "dear sister-in-law," Miss Georgina Hogarth, and the annual interest of £8000 to his wife. To Miss Hogarth the testator leaves his "grateful blessing, as the best and truest friend man ever had." His children are also enjoined to remember how much they owe to Miss Hogarth. In the document Mr. Dickens notes the fact that he has allowed his wife £600 a year since their separation by mutual consent.

THE FRENCH AT ROME.—The Roman correspondent of the *Algemeine Zeitung* says that the French Ambassador, M. de Banneville, has handed to Cardinal Antonelli a note from his Government relative to the occupation of Civita Vecchia by French troops. In this note the French Government states that it has been urgently requested by Italy and other Powers to put an end to the French occupation, and that, before giving a definite answer to those demands, the Duke of Gramont thinks it necessary first to consult the Holy See, as the most interested party, on the subject. He therefore invites Cardinal Antonelli openly to state whether there is any ground for fearing attacks on the integrity of the Papal territories in the event of a withdrawal of the French troops, in order that France may be enabled to take an accurate view of the situation, and regulate her policy in pending questions accordingly. To this Cardinal Antonelli replied that complete peace now reigns in all parts of the Papal States, and that the Papal Government has a force at its disposal which is more than sufficient both to prevent any disturbance of public peace in the interior of the country and to repel all attempts at Garibaldian or Mazzinian invasions from without. The Cardinal concludes by observing that, although if the Papal territory were attacked either by regular troops or by volunteers directly or indirectly supported by the Italian Government, they could be easily disposed of by the Papal militia, such a campaign could not fail to disturb the public peace, and thereby endanger the object of the French occupation. The Cardinal hopes that no such event will occur, even if France were to withdraw her troops, and that no serious danger to the peace of the Papal States and the security of the Holy Father is to be apprehended.

FRENCH LIBERALITY TO SCIENCE.—To scientific English ears still tingling from Mr. Lowe's famous declaration as to Government aid to science, part of the proceedings in the Corps Législatif, on Thursday last, must have been very tantalising. Chapter 29 of the Budget contained an item of £800 to assist Captain Gustave Lambert's expedition for the discovery of the North Pole. M. Stephen Liégeois moved that the grant should be £4000, and with the help of a few words from M. Picard his amendment was carried. To be sure it was the day before war was declared. M. Liégeois pressed a good many points into a brief speech. Since 1818 it appears there have been forty-two expeditions in search of this famous mathematical entity, all of which have failed. The three modes of search now urged are—that of Captain Sherard Osborn, by sledges over the frozen ocean (but, says M. Liégeois, what was thought to be a crust of ice is an open sea); the proposal of Augustus Petermann, of Gotha, to follow the route between Spitzbergen and Nova Zembla; and Captain Lambert's, to try the passage through Behring's Strait, which Cook would have done, "had he not fallen under the hatchet of the savages of the 'andwich Islands.'" It appears, further, that in the polar region, so fatal to explorers, "there are rich products to conquer—whale oil, fossil, ivory, gold, copper, coal, and everything else that 800,000,000 of still unexplored polar hectares can conceal." Captain Lambert has held 200 meetings on this subject, and collected £16,000, besides subscriptions from chambers of commerce, learned societies, the Emperor (£2000), and others. The exploring vessel, the *Boréal*, is ready. Captain Lambert, "an intelligent man, full of faith and courage, with a constitution of iron," will leave Paris on Feb. 1 next; and in the month of August, 1871 (so M. Liégeois says), he will—perhaps to the cry of *Où! Lambert!*—plant the French flag on the prolongation of the terrestrial axis. As for Captain Lambert, we do not wish to damp his courage or rust his constitution; but Voltaire wrote a curious prophetic sentence on June 30, 1769, in a letter to Thirlot—"Il vaud mieux attendre tout du temps que France que d'aller chercher l'enfer et le malheur sous le pôle."—*Paris Mail Gazette*.

POLICE.

THE BRITON BABY FARMERS.—The prisoners Margaret Waters and Sarah Ellis were again brought up at the Lambeth Police Court, on Tuesday, for examination on the charge of neglecting several infant children committed to their care. Mr. Poland informed the magistrate that, since the last examination, another infant had died at the workhouse, leaving only two alive, and making five altogether that had died since the inquiry was opened. Some further medical evidence was then given, which fully corresponded with that already reported. Mary Joy, who was then called, stated that she had worked for the prisoners at No. 4, Frederick-terrace. She had seen four or five children in the house. They generally appeared to be asleep. Prisoner Ellis had told witness that she sometimes had eight children at one time. She told witness that she took them home when they were ill, and witness remarked two children—a boy and a girl—being taken away about June 7 last year. Witness identified the clothes found as belonging to children she had seen. In reply to Mr. Poland, witness said the children were frequently called by Waters "Little beasts and devils." This closed substantially the case for the prosecution, and the prisoners were remanded with a view to committal next week. A woman came forward and claimed one of the surviving children, and the magistrate made an order for it to be restored to her.

IN SEARCH OF BETSY BAKER.—At Marylebone, on Tuesday, Alfred Marshall, who is described as a dirty-looking man, was charged with loitering. A police officer said he was passing through Chester-terrace and heard a noise in the area of 29, Chester-terrace, and on looking down he saw the prisoner at the window. In reply to his question, prisoner said he was looking for Betsy Baker. The butler said there was no such name in the house, but that prisoner had been down begging, and tried to force his way in. They had a difficulty in getting him out. The prisoner now admitted he went down to beg. Mr. D'Eyncourt sentenced him to one month's hard labour.

A WRETCHED WAIF.—A youth who was deaf and dumb was put on his trial, at the assizes at Chelmsford, on Tuesday, before Chief Justice Bovill, on the charge of stealing a donkey. He seemed to be an imbecile, likewise; for the village schoolmaster, who acted as interpreter, declared that he could not make him understand the necessary proceedings, nor even what a jury was, or what putting questions to witnesses meant. After some consultation, the Lord Chief Justice said the case was somewhat peculiar. It was not a case of insanity, on which the prisoner could be kept in confinement; but it was a case of entire inability to understand the nature of the proceedings. Under such circumstances, of course, it would be a farce to try the man. The only difficulty was what to do with him. Would any asylum receive him? The village schoolmaster said he thought not. He was not an idiot or a lunatic, and so would not be received into a lunatic asylum, and he would not now be received into a deaf and dumb asylum. There appeared also to be a difficulty as to the sending the youth to any workhouse, for it was not known to what parish he was chargeable. He had no parents living, and was an utter outcast—a mere vagrant and wanderer. The Lord Chief Justice said the best thing would be for the schoolmaster, if he would be good enough to do so, to take charge of the poor youth, and take him to the overseers of the parish, and try to induce them to take charge of him. The schoolmaster promised to do so, and the outcast was discharged.

AN UNSUSPECTED DANGER.—Some interesting evidence was given by Mr. Menzies, the deputy-surveyor of Windsor Forest, at the inquest, on Monday, on a young man named Johnson, who was killed by the falling of an elm-branch in the Long Walk on Sunday. Mr. Menzies said that the branch which caused the young man's death was a living one, and it had fallen about forty feet. Elm-trees, such as those in the Long Walk, were the most dangerous of all trees. During great heat and great drought branches of elm-trees were exceedingly liable to fall without the slightest notice of warning, and green branches much more so than dead ones, even in the calmest weather. In consideration of the great drought and the known danger, his attention had been specially called by Prince Christian, the Ranger, and General Seymour, the Deputy-Ranger, to the trees in the Long Walk. When the Queen was in Scotland he removed many dead branches; and on Sunday morning, before the accident occurred, he again received instructions to see to the trees and remove the dead limbs, and use his discretion about green ones, if necessary. With respect to the tree in question, he should not have expected its branches to be unsafe. During his experience of twenty years he had only known one person injured by the falling of a branch from a tree of any description; but he constantly warned picnic parties sitting under elm-trees in hot weather of the danger they ran, and that they would be safer under any other sort of tree. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

ASSAULT ON LORD RANELAGH.—At Marlborough-street, on Wednesday, John Gray, servant, 35, Palace-street, Piccadilly, and William Buckley, servant, Lowndes Cottage, Lowndes-square, were charged before Mr. Tyrwhitt with assaulting Lord Ranelagh, at 7, New Burlington-street, and also with being drunk and disorderly. Police-Sergeant Mackenzie, C R 4, said, about one o'clock in the morning he saw the prisoners in Regent-circus with a crowd about them, having an altercation with Lord Ranelagh, who complained that they had assaulted him. Buckley pushed Gray, who was in a fighting attitude, aside, and placing himself in a similar position, aimed a blow at Lord Ranelagh, which witness stopped. He told the prisoners to go away, but they refused to leave, and he took them into custody. Police-Constable Martin corroborated the sergeant. Lord Ranelagh said about one o'clock in the morning, as he was crossing from Waterloo-place to Regent-street, the prisoners and another man passed him, and



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one called out, "There's Madame Rachel's man," using other insulting expressions—especially Gray. Some persons who heard them said, "What blackguards you are!" and an altercation ensued, which lasted about ten minutes, everybody's attention being directed towards him. He kept his temper, and begged Gray to go away, but he refused. He walked away; the prisoner followed. Gray then came up to him and said, "I'll fight you. I don't care for you or any other Lord. I'm better than any of you." Both prisoners said they were servants out of place. Mr. Tyrwhitt had had frequent opportunities of knowing what a turbulent set gentlemen's servants were. They were overfed, overpaid, and ready for any piece of mischief that came in their way. It was fortunate that such fellows were out of place. Assaults of this character, without provocation, would always be dealt with as they deserved, and the prisoners would have to pay £5, or undergo two months' imprisonment.

ALLEGED SHIP-SCUTTLE.—John Fitzgerald, fifty-eight, described as a master mariner, was taken before the Lord Mayor, at the Mansion House, on Wednesday, on remand, charged with wilfully scuttling the ship Admiral Napier, on the high seas, with intent to defraud the Azienda Assicuratrice Association, of London and Trieste, of the sum of £600. Mr. George Lewis, jun., solicitor, conducted the prosecution. The ship Admiral Napier, of which the prisoner was the captain, was insured for £600 with the Azienda office, through a firm of agents, and at the end of last month a claim for £599 12s. 6d., in respect of that policy, was made. Inquiries into the loss of the ship were instituted, and the result was the arrest of the prisoner on the present charge. It was proved that the ship sailed from Liverpool on a voyage to Aberdeen on June 2, and that to the date of her loss she experienced very fine weather and favourable winds. Five days after her departure a loud rush of water was heard, and the sound proceeded from the berth of the prisoner, which he always kept locked. He declined to make for land, although within a very few miles of it; and he dissuaded the crew from pumping, telling them not to kill themselves by so doing. They got together all their things, and put them into the ship's boats, in which they and the prisoner pulled to shore near Ailsa Craig. The ship sank in less than twelve hours after the rush was heard, and no effort was made by the prisoner to discover the leak. On the way to the land he threw overboard a small anchor, saying he had no further use for it. In answer to the charge, he alleged that the ship struck on the Bohemia Reef, and that he did not know of any insurance being effected. That was the evidence upon which the prisoner had been remanded. On Wednesday Mr. Lewis announced that Hector Gillies, the owner of the vessel, against whom a warrant had been issued, had been arrested by a City detective officer at the Isle of Skye. He was now on his way to London, and he (Mr. Lewis) believed he would be found the more guilty party. On the last occasion he had thought it desirable to observe reticence in the case, but he should feel it his duty at the next examination to disclose a very serious charge of scuttling. What was to be done with the present prisoner was a matter for future consideration, and since the last hearing he had expressed a desire to make some communication to him (Mr. Lewis). That communication might assist the ends of justice, and he proposed to see

the prisoner in Newgate. Under those circumstances he had to apply for another remand. The Lord Mayor remanded the prisoner.

BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE.—On Thursday an action in the Common Pleas—"Hurren v. Backholer"—for breach of promise of marriage, was heard before Mr. Under-Sheriff Burchell, at the Sheriff's Court, Red Lion-square. The damages were laid at £1000. Mr. Michelmore appeared for the plaintiff, and the defendant was his own advocate. The plaintiff, Maria Hurren, is a dressmaker, at Gibson-terrace, Notting-hill; and the defendant, Horatio James Backholer, a house decorator and painter, in the same neighbourhood. On one occasion an estrangement took place, which was made up, and an engaged ring was given. Some time afterwards the defendant called on the plaintiff and left to get a cigar, and she found a note in pencil stating—"My dear Maria, I could not say good-bye with my mouth; but, good-bye for ever!" Her health had suffered since, and her business as a dressmaker had decreased. The defendant cross-examined. He alleged poverty, and declared that it was owing to the "frightful jealous temper" of the plaintiff that it was broken off. Mr. Under-Sheriff Burchell told the jury that the breach was admitted. The only question was one of damages, and both parties were in humble positions. The jury assessed the damages at £20.

THE CASE OF TOOTING-COMMON.—On Thursday the Master of the Rolls gave judgment in the suit of "Betts v. Thompson," which had been instituted to prevent the inclosure of Tooting Graveney-common. It appeared that until 1862, when the defendant, Mr. Wm. Thompson, became lord of the manor, the commoners had, from time immemorial, enjoyed the usual rights of commoners. The Master of the Rolls was of opinion that the case of the plaintiffs was made out, and that they were entitled to an injunction to restrain the defendant from putting up fences on the common to prevent the commoners from depasturing their cattle, or exercising any other of the rights which they had heretofore enjoyed as commoners. A decree would be made to that effect, and the costs of the suit must be paid by the defendant.

THE FRENCH "MITRAILLEUSE."

To destroy your enemy in the shortest time, in the easiest manner, and at the least possible expense, is the first maxim of war. The stone that whistled from David's sling, the bullet of the "zundnadel-gewehr," and the volley of the "machine-gun" had all the same object. Since the days of Roger Bacon the aim of all improvements in firearms has been to carry the greatest possible number of deaths to the greatest possible distance. Grape, canister or case, and shrapnel, all contain bullets, and are all means for multiplying deaths. The field-gun mows down its hundreds by showers of case at close quarters, or at longer distances rains bullets from the bursting shrapnel. The mitrailleuse, or machine-gun, on the contrary, sends a large number of small projectiles independently, and with precision, to a considerable distance. We may divide arms on the latter principle into two classes—first, those which discharge their bullets from a single barrel, fed by a many-chambered breech; and, secondly, those in which each cartridge has its corresponding barrel, the charging and discharging of which is

direct, and more or less simple. It is obvious that, for rough usage and continuous firing, it is better that a large number of rounds should be fired from a considerable number of barrels so placed as to support each other and add strength to the whole machine. The French mitrailleuse, as well as the Belgian Montigny, belongs to the second class, and the following brief description is equally applicable to both arms:—The machine-gun consists of a cluster of barrels, either bound together or bored out of the solid, and mounted on the same principle as an ordinary field-gun. At a few hundred yards, indeed, it would be difficult to distinguish between these weapons, as far as outward appearance goes. To the barrel is attached a massive breech action, capable of being opened and closed by a lever. In the Montigny arm the cartridges are carried in steel plates perforated with holes corresponding in number and position to the holes in the barrel. This steel plate, in fact, forms the "vent-piece" of the system. The central-fire cartridges, being dropped into the holes in the steel plate, stand out at right angles from it, and the plates, thus ready charged, are so carried in limber and axle-tree boxes specially fitted for their reception. When the gun comes into action the breech is drawn back, a steel plate full of cartridges is dropped into its corresponding slot, and the breech-block thrust forward and secured. The gun is now on full cock, and contains from thirty to forty cartridges, which are fired by a "barrel organ" handle, either one by one, as the handle works round "click-click," or in a volley by a rapid turn of the wrist. When the gun is empty the breech-block is again withdrawn; the steel plate, carrying the empty cartridge-cases, lifted out, and a fresh plate dropped in, if necessary. The advantage possessed by the machine-gun over infantry fire is that it is never in a funk. Bullets may rain around, bursting shells may fill the air, still the thirty-seven barrels of the mitrailleuse shoot like one man, and at 800 or 1000 yards will pour volley after volley of deadly concentrated fire into a circle of from 10 ft. to 12 ft. in diameter. No boring or fixing of fuses is required, and the whole operation is performed so rapidly that two steady, cool men could maintain a fire of ten discharges per minute. On the other hand, the mitrailleuse could not well compete with the field-gun, and it is with this weapon it will assuredly be met. Its bullets would have comparatively slight effect at the ranges at which field-artillery projectiles are, perhaps, most effective, while its size would offer a very fair mark to the gunner. The foreign press are welcome to write fantarounades about the sudden death of wretched horses at incredible distances. This is peace practice. The horses came from the knacker's yard, not from the banks of the Elbe, and there were no Uhlands sitting on them. We are also tempted on such occasions to take the square root of the reported distance as the actual range. The future of the mitrailleuse, however, depends on coming facts. The days of experiment are over; there are hundreds of machine-guns trundling towards the Rhine. The drum-like roll of their volleys may ere long be heard in the vineyards of Rüdesheim, or on the edge of the Black Forest; and the "thud" of the bullet may come from something softer than a wooden target. Yes, the machine-gun is en route for the Rhine. The experiments will now be on a gigantic scale; and Mr. Cardwell may adjourn his Special Committee until after Christmas, at any rate. By that time the voice of war will have given the verdict; by that time the chassépot, the zundnadel-gewehr, the shrapnel, and the volley-gun will each be credited with a ghastly account; and we shall know which engine destroys human life in the shortest time, the easiest manner, and at the least possible expense.—Globe.

THE BANK FAILURE AT NORWICH.—The preliminary meeting of the creditors of Harvey's Bank at Norwich was held on Thursday morning. The total liabilities are reported to be £1,800,000, reduced by balances to £1,641,000. Sir R. Harvey's unsettled estates amount to £200,000. The creditors contest the broker's debts of £100,000. Mr. Kerrison's personal estate is £100,000. The Mexican mines are not valued. The profits of the bank are £20,000, but the partners have divided £30,000. Messrs. Gurney will give £21,000 for the good-will, and £20,000 for the premises. The debts indemnified by Sir R. Harvey are £600,000. The entire assets are £1,040,000.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, JULY 15.

BANKRUPTS.—J. G. W. BEAN, Hampstead-heath, coal agent.—J. BEKTRAND, Burlington-gardens, manager of the Stafford Club.—E. W. CHAPMAN, south-west, licensed lighter-man.—S. A. GORHAM, Berkeley-square, hotel-keeper.—C. E. HOLLS, Lombard-street, timberbroker.—S. HEXTLE, Regent-street, Manchester warehouseman.—P. MEWAN, Baywater, wine merchant.—W. MARCHBANK, Kentish Town, draper.—J. BARKER, Warrington, stonemason.—S. BOND, Luton, baker.—A. GOOD, Hockliffe-under-Bathwater, draper.—J. HALL, Charlton, large owner.—J. W. MRELLAR, Torquay, grocer.—R. OWENS, Liverpool, shipping agent.—C. J. ROWLAND, Liverpool, licensed victualler.—T. J. SHAW, Over Darwen—Rev. W. S. SMERSET, Woolstone Rectory, clerk in holy orders.—T. O. STORES, Rochford, armist.—R. W. E. R. Leeds, grocer.—W. E. WILSON, Plymouth, builder.—J. WOOD, Manchester, wholesale grocer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. CHRISTIE, Edinburgh, grocer.—J. CHRISTIE, Glasgow, sugar merchant.—J. R. SWAN, Glasgow, accountant.—J. RODGERS, Bishopston, Rentre-shire, haydealer.—J. RAMSAY, Dundee, shipbroker.

TUESDAY, JULY 19.

BANKRUPTS.—H. BUTTERICK, Camden Town, Jeweller.—H. W. BURRIDGE, Oxford-street, and Paddington, boot-maker.—J. B. and W. J. TURNER, Stoke Newington, beer-bottlers.—S. ASTIN, Cardiff.—J. CHAMBERS and G. SWEETING, Heston, builders.—C. CLARKSON, Sherrin, butcher.—J. J. ELY, Chatham, surgeon.—B. GRIEWOOD, Market Weighton, grocer.—B. L. GROSS, Ipswich, attorney.—J. J. JENKINS, Waterton Hall, Glamorganshire, farmer.—M. W. NORMAN, Blunham, cornfactor.—F. NOW, Shifnal, Shropshire, provision-dealer.—J. W. TURNER, Halifax, staff merchant.—W. WARRELL, St. Albans, farmer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. H. BAXTER, Perth, watchmaker.—J. CHRISTIE, Pitgorn—R. SCOTT and A. BARTLEMAN, Edinburgh, grocers.—J. SMITH, Edinburgh, grocer.—W. GILLIES, Haddington, tailor.

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Patterns free.	Checked Silks, from	the Dress at	5 6
arranged so	Plain Silks, from	..	1 10
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Pattern can	Gros de Suez Silks, from	..	2 2 0
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We guarantee to show one of the largest Stocks in the Trade, and Purchasers may save from 10 to 25 per cent in price. HENRY GLAYE, 534 to 537, New Oxford-street, W.C.

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Washing Alpaca, Llamas, Tinted Alpaca, White Grounds, Marl Cambrics, Washed Greenadines, Barège Mohairs, Elegant Muslins, Cambrics, Piques, Silk Regs, Wool Regs, &c.

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Z. SIMPSON and COMPANY have purchased, at a large discount, the undermentioned, and are OFFERING the same THIS DAY. Ladies' and Children's Morning Costumes, Sun Bonnets, Underclothing, Muslin Garibaldi, Toilet Jackets, Hosiery, Gloves, Skirts, Fancy Flannel shirts, Infants' Braided Cloaks, Bibs, and Stays. 65 and 66 (late 48, 49, 50, and 53), Farringdon-street, E.C.

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Patterns post-free. SILKS—Black Gros-de-Suez, from 42 2s. the Dress. Black Glace and Gros-grains (wear guaranteed). Fancy Silks, from 41 8s. 6d. the Dress. MANTLES—Rich silk Jackets, the newest styles, 1 guinea; Cloth ditto, from 5s. 11d.; Velveteen ditto, from 5s. 11d.; Waterproofs, from 10s. 6d.; Lace Shawls, from 10s. 6d. DRESSES—The New Figured Rep, 10s. 9d. the Full Dress. Saten Cloth, 16s. 9d. the Full Dress. FRENCH PIQUES—1s. 9d. per yard. French Cambrics, 6½d. and 7½d. per yard. Family Linens, Ribbons, Lace, Gloves, Hosiery, Trimmings, &c. Family and Complimentary Mourning. James Spence and Co., 76, 77, and 78, St. Paul's-churchyard.

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A CLEAR COMPLEXION. GODFREY'S EXTRACT OF ELDER FLOWERS has long been known for its surprising effect in softening, improving, and preserving the skin, in rendering the Complexion clear and beautiful.

It removes Tan, Sunburn, &c.; cures Pimples, Humours, and other Eruptions, and by persevering in its use, the skin becomes delicately soft, clear, and smooth. Godfrey's Extract of Elder Flowers possesses a delightful fragrance, and is an indispensable adjunct to the Toilet and Nursery. Sold in bottles, price 2s. 9d., by all Chemists and Perfumers.

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MOURNING for FAMILIES. Messrs. JAY anxious to remove an impression which they find has gained undue circulation, that none but the richest materials in made-up Skirts, Mantles, and Millinery are sold at their establishment, deem it a duty to themselves and to the public to assure all families who have not yet dealt with them, that they sell an excellent Family Mourning Dress, full length, for the small sum of 1 guinea and a half. Good Wearing Materials are cut from the piece, and at more than an equivalent for the price, which is from 1s. per yard upwards. JAY'S THE LONDON GENERAL MOURNING WAREHOUSE, 247, 249, and 251, Regent-street.

LARGE and IMPORTANT SALE at D. B. JOHNSTONE and CO.'S. Rebuilding of 268 and 270 (late 111 and 112), Edgware-road, in connection with the NEW PREMISES now building in Chapel-street—viz., Nos. 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30, and 4, 5, and 6, Thwaites-place and core's-place.

D. B. Johnstone and Co., in consequence of the above alterations and extensions, are now rapidly SELLING, all re-marked at a great reduction in price, the whole of their STOCK from all departments, to effect a speedy clearance, previous to the premises being pulled down. 264 to 270, Edgware-road.

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